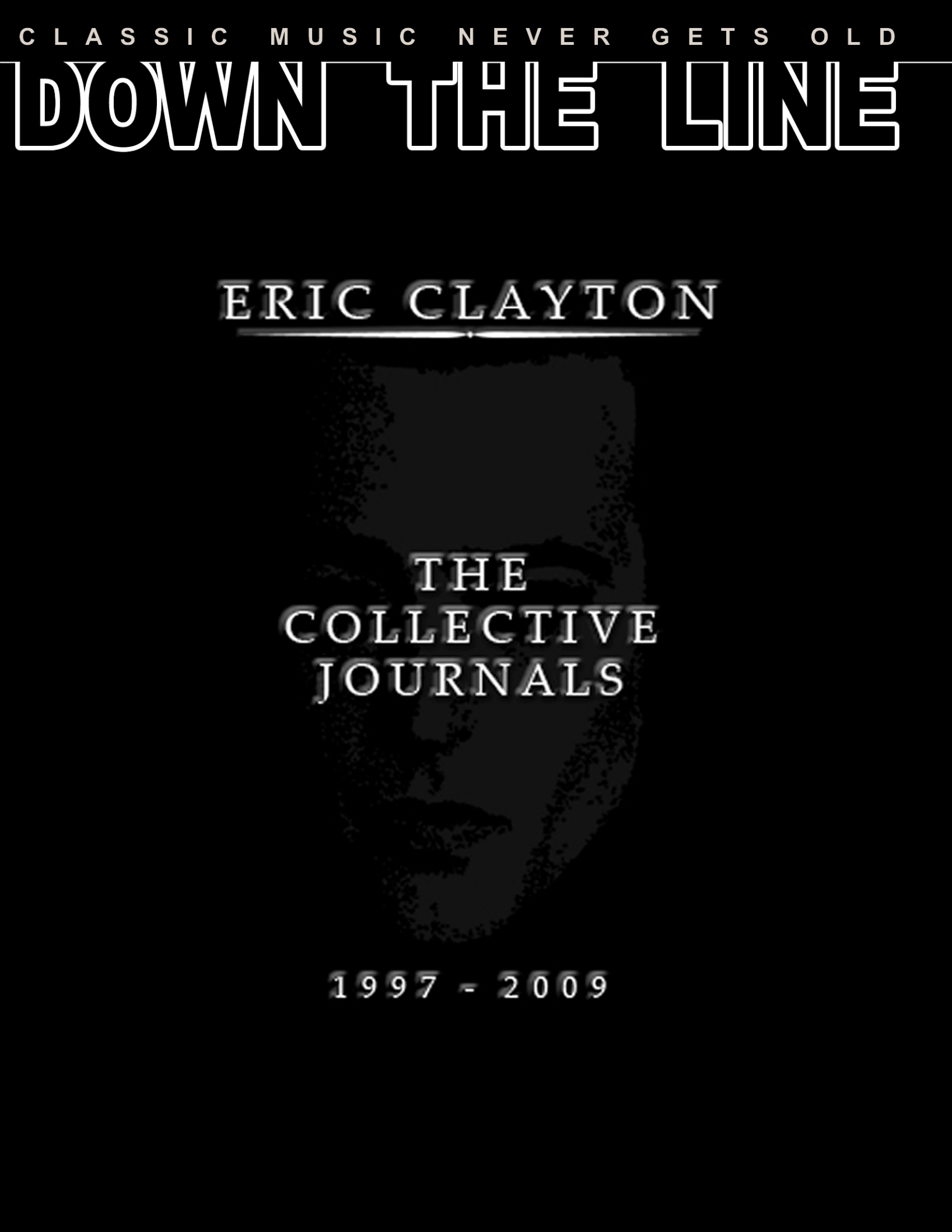
CLASSIC MUSIC NEVER GETS OLD

DOWN THE LINE

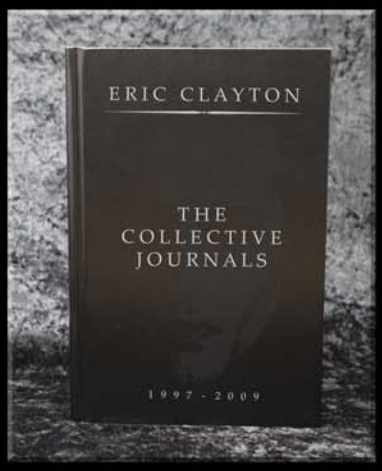
ERIC CLAYTON



THE COLLECTIVE JOURNALS

1997 - 2009

ERIC CLAYTON



THE COLLECTIVE JOURNALS

1997 - 2009

These are the first ever, non musical, published writings of Eric Clayton! This is a Limited, FIRST EDITION work from one of the most "controversial" and reclusive artists of our time! Only 500 copies of this edition will ever exist!

EACH of the 500 copies will be hand numbered and signed by the author, himself! By his own admission: "The most personal, intimate and revealing words I've ever written!"

Nearly 200 pages, including 24, full page illustrations of Eric's favorite paintings, drawings and sketches from artists, friends and SM fans around the world!

WARNING: Some of the content in this publication could easily be considered "explicit" and may not be appropriate or recommended for younger readers!

[Specifications / Dimensions]

Dimensions: 6" x 9" (Bound along the 9" side)
Hardcover: (Case Bound) - Black Kivar 7 over 80pt. board;
Perfect bind, (board in spine) encase complete with headbands.
Text foil stamped in chrome (spine, front & back cover) with additional black "ghost" image of Mask Logo on the front cover!

- P R E F A C E -

To quote my dear friend, Brian Healy: "The only difference between being crazy and being eccentric, is how much money you have made along the way!" Well... I haven't made very much money, so I guess that means I'm crazy! ;) Portions of these journals will probably read like the ranting of a madman… This is in fact, an "opus like, stream of consciousness"…It is a collection of my impressions and my thoughts… a seemingly endless study in my psychology… It explores my phobias, my fears, my insecurities… how they all, at times, have greatly contributed to "behavioral disorders," mainly, in relation to my public life and thankfully, seldom in my private life… Ironically, these same disorders which have almost literally "driven" me to the modest level of success I've been privileged to experience as an artist have also driven me to the brink of madness at times, over the past 12 years… therein lies the great "paradox" of my career!

This collection of journals is not all "doom and gloom"…(sorry Goth kiddies ;) Yes, it deals with some seriously heavy shit [and yes, there is some "language"] at times… this is by no means, "light reading," (not "twitter" folks ;) in many ways, it is a "journey into self"…I'm sure the words "journey" and "journal" are somehow connected, historically… I haven't had the time to research it? ;) The reason I've chosen to title it; "The Collective Journals," is due to the fact I never kept just a single notebook to write in… I kept a series of notebooks, legal pads, scrapbooks, random papers, etc… some of the most profoundly important sections and paragraphs in this collection were originally written on the back of restaurant napkins, various business cards, sticky notes, (LOTS of sticky notes) hotel stationary, etc… etc… whatever I had available at that particular location and time… In the end, what you'll read is about 90% of everything I've written down, over the past 12 years… the other 10% I've excluded, is either "pointless meandering," complete garbage or painfully mundane! There's also the distinct possibility that some of the 90% I chose to include could be part of the same? ;) Hopefully not… maybe you'll find it interesting, even inspiring, at times… I'm quite certain that my deepest motivation for publishing this, is to INSPIRE!!!!!

I Pray to God it's not too depressing… that's the last thing I want! It's a heavy story… I'm sure some of it may come across as depressing as hell… if that is all you take away from this, then you've completely missed the point! Don't brood over "the treacherous course of my journey" or "pity me" in ANY capacity… The past 12 years of my life have been a bit of a "bumpy road" to travel and it's not exactly like the first 30 years were a "smooth ride" either… ;) but everyone has experienced varying degrees of pain, struggle, suffering and trauma during the course of their lives… What may be one person's "difficulties," could easily be considered "a walk in the park" for another person and vice versa… I simply refuse to believe that my "journey" has been any more difficult than yours! We are all very different and our capacities for "dealing with adversity" are equally unique… My story is simply mine, nothing more or less, just honest and real!

This is the single most personal work I've ever written… it is far more personal to me, than any album I've ever produced or any song I've ever written… It is a reflection of my hopes, my dreams, my passions and my Prayers… Hopefully, it's a clear and poignant representation of the man I was 12 years ago, the man I am today and the man I hope to be, 12 years from now, when I'm 54… Yikes! Though I am a notably "private" and sometimes, "notoriously reclusive" man, relationships are of vital importance to me… like anything I ever choose to do, I do it with great care and thoughtful consideration… though I have met or come in contact with thousands of people, over the past 12 years, I keep a very small but intimately close circle of immediate family and friends… these relationships are all touched upon, if not, greatly over explored ;) in my writings…they ALL contribute to elements of who I am… If I love you, I love you unconditionally! If I love you, you're in these journals… if you're not, don't take it personally, it just means that we may actually know each other and I just "like" you a lot! ;)

I must ask that you completely disregard my poor and often inappropriate over use of "punctuation!" ;) I use WAY too many commas and have a tendency to use them in "non traditional" places! ;) I use way too many "quotations" and use them for a number of reasons, which only mean something to ME… I can't begin to explain…it would require a quotation "key" at the front of the book! ;) As you'll quickly see, you won't find a single period [.] in this entire collection of journals… I hate them and refuse to use them… my thoughts never end with

a single period… they always flow in sets of three… everything "connects" for me… nothing really ever "begins" or "ends" in my mind… it's all cyclical and the words "flow" much better for me this way… besides, who came up with all these ridged "punctuation rules" anyway? Rules have been broken in all forms of art, why not break a few in how to punctuate dialog, especially considering it is MY conversation? ;) Btw, I probably over use these too… ;) simple, if I find something funny or I'm being overtly sarcastic, you're very likely to see one! ;) Now that I've established my punctuation is non traditional and atrocious, ;) I'll attempt to wrap up this little preface… It's the actual "words" which are so important, as far as I'm concerned… the content, in and of itself, which can be psychological, philosophical, existential, introspective, retrospective, analytical, reflective, sublime, poignant, melancholy and even quite sentimental at times…

The journals are my "feelings"…they are my ego, my work, my "calling," my heart, mind, body and soul! I can't think of a single aspect of my personality or of my "persona" that has gone untouched, over the course of these writings… This is in ways, a painful stroll along the lonely path of "perfection" ...the quest to reach the "unattainable," in the simple truth that "perfection" does not exist in the world of man… "it" is infinitely beyond our comprehension and utterly "above" our mortal capabilities… It's taken me years to "arrive" at this truth, and though I know it to be truth, I struggle with this "maddening quest" daily! I alone, have been responsible for allowing this insanity to effect my mind and now, my body… it <u>IS</u> my reality… After years of creating music / theater of an almost "unreal" nature, the journals are a type of study / catharsis in reality…

"Reality" is often cold and brutal… it can be a relentless force, ever stalking us, trying to wear us down and beat us to death… It can, and may likely kill us all! For the sake of my children, I LIVE to renew their "sense of wonder," each and every day… to show them GOD in everything… that there is Grace, "purpose" and beauty in the midst of even the greatest suffering… I've tried to teach them that there are no "accidents," that EVERYTHING happens for a reason… I do mean everything! At this point in their lives, they have no idea about certain aspects of their Father's "reality" …If I were "exactly" the man my daughters know, this would surely be a very boring collection of journals... ;) Thankfully, what they have seen and known, is most definitely, "the very best" of who I am;

strength, security, consistency, responsibility, discipline, knowledge, wisdom, creativity, character, etiquette, grace, dignity, honesty, humility, humor, light heartedness and FUN! :) Someday soon, they will have the opportunity to read these journals…when they do, I'm sure that much of it will be a "revelation" to them, as it will likely be for many, even for some of the closest people in my life! Before I "shuffle off this mortal coil," there are a great number of things people close to me, need to know… there are also many things which some, not so close to me, may be interested to know… it's time for you to know… you all deserve to know…everything… every sordid detail… "the whole damn ball of wax!" ;)

My complete honesty, openness and transparency will likely shatter delusions of many… ;) obviously, the dedicated SM fans, first and far most, of whom I've been so very "silent with," over the past several years… God willing, these journals will "shed some light" on many, if not all of the reasons why I've been so quiet, so long? Why I won't give interviews anymore? Why I refuse to tour? Why my music career has been so "inactive" for the past decade? Why? Why? I've spent an entire public career (20 years) behind the pale facade of an "alter ego," an image… a "character persona" in which I have almost had to maintain a certain amount of "mystique" and "mystery" …it is simply, what the "role" required, in order for it to work as effectively as it has… Hell, from the very beginning, "a mask" was chosen as the logo for SM…the entire concept, music, presentation… all "grandiose," operatic, bombastic… intense, confrontational, controversial and from the beginning, "shrouded in mystery"…Ironically, who I am as an artist and who I am in my personal life, could not be further apart! Eric Clayton; "The Pale Prophet of Doom" is only a small part of who I am… granted, it's a particularly strange part… ;) These journals offer an abundance of insight to this "twisted freak," ;) but it is Eric Clayton; Believer, husband, father, son, brother and friend, that you'll likely learn more about, if you are at all interested? I so wanted to avoid using the painfully obvious metaphor of "removing the mask," but I guess it's too appropriate to pass up? ;) It is what it is… likely, the very last "interview" I will ever give… me interviewing me… (talk about narcissistic ;) It's the real me, as far as I know… everything I AM!

Eric Clayton / October 31, 2009

** A few important NOTES from the author, to the reader **
The following, are "excerpts," segments and in cases, complete paragraphs from my Collection of Journals…

This is approximately 35% of the material contained in the journals entire… The excerpts are all linear, but there are "gaps" (sometimes months) between segments!

These excerpts begin in the Spring of 1997 (a few pages into the book) and they end in the Summer of 2009, (only a few pages away from the end of the book)

My sincere apologies if you happen to stumble upon a few typing errors… The COMPLETE JOURNALS are in the process of being "proofed" and edited! ;)

I felt that Steve had waited long enough for this! It was not fair to make him wait any longer… I would like to thank Steve for his tremendous patience and support… Steve has been nothing short of "A Saint," in regards to this "interview!" From his initial inquiry about it in mid June, until now, he has been kind, respectful and gracious, at all times, throughout the process…I deeply appreciate it!

Out of respect for Steve and his readers, I've excluded many of the sections involving either graphic language or overtly controversial subject matter… Some of this content has also been excluded, due to the fact that it is delicate in nature and it could be too easily misinterpreted in this type of excerpt form!

"Context" is important…in this form; "fragmented" and "partial," you're reading a generous, but fairly "broad stroke" version of a far more intimate and detailed story… hopefully, it's enough of a rough sketch to give you an "impression" of the finished "portrait" to come…

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<u>Spring 1997</u> - Find myself in a place I never imagined I'd be…Nashville! ;) After being called "a false prophet,"… "a devil worshiper," and even more prestigiously, being deemed "the antichrist of Christian music" in 1993, I can barely fathom the idea of entering the mouth of the beast… the center of the Christian music industry…ME…go to Nashville? Why… for a good old fashioned, Southern lynching? ;) These people hate me… they are scared to death of me, they think I'm evil and I'll likely never get out of here alive! ;) At the suggestion of MCM, I'm at the GMA convention, quietly seeking possible distribution for Legend Part I, in the U.S… distribution for SM in the States went so well in 1993, I can't imagine why I'm not optimistic? ;)

Much to my surprise, I have encountered many more allies here than I ever imagined… "friends of SM"… it's mind blowing and it's a "Revelation" of sorts… the Grace of God is truly profound and reaches far beyond any limits our mortal minds could possibly attempt to contain it…I should know better than to ever doubt the infinite realms and vastly faceted dimensions of God's Will! I am gratefully humbled, ashamed of my cynicism and in complete awe of His Sovereignty… I'm also cautious of man's capabilities, but I do believe in the possibilities, and that something progressive in the career of SM, may indeed come from my experience here…I'm ready and willing to be "in awe" again, at any time… maybe, 4 years later, America is ready to embrace SM?

<u>Mid 1997</u> - Jeff is drinking more and more heavily… our relationship is becoming increasingly estranged… feel a great distance between us and an ever increasing resentment from him, towards me… almost no relationship at all anymore… whatever it is, it's quite dysfunctional and depressing… Jeff's involvement with SM continues to decrease rapidly… don't think we'd see each other at all anymore, if not for SM related work… becoming painful and increasingly awkward working together in any capacity… feels as if he hates anything related to SM… including, and probably most of all, ME! It's so strange… it seems as if he, somehow holds me responsible for all of the

unhappiness in his life… he's filled with such bitterness and anger… it just "exudes" from him, sometimes… I love him so much… it's painful to see…

Feels like SM as a "band" doesn't really exist anymore… guess it really hasn't been a "band" for many years… maybe it never was, but even less of a band now… more of a "Mission" I suppose, when at its best & more often, a deeply obsessive "project" or vision that drives me to the brink of madness sometimes… for everyone else involved with the project, over the years, it's probably been more of an invitation to "Crazy play time with Eric!" ;) Fun for a bit, but it "gets to you" after a while… It is just Nathan and I lately… Maybe Nathan's tolerance to "crazy" is a bit stronger than anyone else's? ;)

Working on Legend Part II has been INTENSE! The pressure I feel is crazy! The music, lyrics & atmosphere must represent the story accurately… entire process has been very strange this time… unlike anything before… writing and arranging with a sequencer, a sampler & a computer… In some ways, it feels like I'm throwing shit at a wall… most of it sticks, and from a distance, looks like some amazing piece of modern art, but stand too close and it just stinks like hell…perspective, context, distance, the work entire; listeners who maintain these things will get a great deal out of it, for years to come…taken out of context, people may hate it… suppose those who have a solid Biblical knowledge will surely "get it" most… could sound like utter chaos to many people, but it sounds "right" to me… I think? All I know for sure is that this album is pushing me greater than any before…feel as if I'm not just pushing myself for a change… definitely other forces at work… always have been to some degree but this time, more profound, more pronounced, more intense…

<u>Fall - Dec, 1997</u> - European tour with Norway's "Theatre of Tragedy" is a strange combination but quite successful…perform to sold out venues, night after night… very mixed audiences… a combination of our usual "Gothic" crowd & Prog Rock fans, but not too many believers supporting SM on this tour… our lowest ratio of "Christian fans" of any tour, so far…probably due to the large number of "TOT" fans…a dominantly "Black Metal" audience, which I find to be a fascinating challenge to perform for each night… I sense

a great "resistance" from them every night… a tremendous "fight" against us… it reminds me of performing small clubs in CA during the early days of SM when our bold "message" & bombastic approach was rarely appreciated to say the least! ;) Find I must be at "high alert" each night… extra focused and even more open for The Holy Spirit to move at any time…find that I am Praying, not only before each performance but often during performances, in order to maintain the strength I need to continue… the "Spiritual Warfare" seems more extreme… more on the surface… the culmination of this warfare is profoundly evident, when we perform the Wacken Open Air Festival in Germany… the largest "Black Metal" festival in the world… SM is the first openly "Christian band" to ever perform at the "WOA" …we are met with great disdain, indifference & resistance… seems as if both, band & audience, intimidate the other, eventually leading to an almost shocking degree of respect for what we do and how we approach it… performance is extremely intense… one of the most intense we've ever given… reception is awkward, bizarre and somewhat confused… overall experience is interesting… a kind of mutual curiosity, hatred, fear & fascination at the same time… poignant & powerful nonetheless…"educational" as well…a study in confrontation…

Following the tour… return to the US to begin recording Legend Part II in late Fall… recording Legend Part II is far more intense than any previous production… the tight production schedule & the complexity of the material takes a great toll on my psyche… even more of a toll on my health… seems like I am always getting sick… colds, flu, sinus infections… a healthy man, I am not… should really find a healthier profession… always in the studio… 24 hours a day… even sleeping here, though not many hours and definitely not very well… feels like I've been here for months… like I've been away from home for a year… guess I have been in some sense… Legend Part I was released in January and immediately gave way to months of composing and arranging Legend Part II, tons of press and promotion for Legend Part I, Cornerstone Festival, an extensive European Tour and now… I'm locked in the studio again…I miss my babies at home…Kashmir is 2 ½ already…Kyra is now 10 months old… they NEED their Daddy and their Daddy NEEDS to be at home… Daddy needs a break from SM… hopefully, it comes soon…

Recording of Legend Part II finally wraps in mid December… a short, but much needed break for Christmas… It's just enough time to reconnect with my daughters, get myself healthy again and prepare for another extended trip to Europe in January - February, to attempt to mix this sonic madness!

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<u>Jan - Feb, 1998</u> - Mixing & post production of Legend Part II is taking place in Bayreuth, Germany… Wagner lived and composed here, which adds an interesting historical element to an already "mystical like" atmosphere, here in the Black Forrest… Bruno is a really cool guy and a genuinely sweet person… I'm enjoying working with him… he is VERY talented and though I'm sure he's a bit overwhelmed by the massive amount of tracks he's dealing with every day, he never indicates he is incapable of handling them with great precision… I'm very impressed with his technical proficiency and even more impressed by his musical ear… his extensive Classical background is a tremendous asset to this album in particular… great musician & engineer…

Completed all mixing today… 18 songs, containing 100's of tracks in only 12 days… would have loved to have 21 days to mix, but considering the time frame, I'm very pleased with the final results… looking forward to working with Bruno again someday but for now, looking forward to getting home…

<u>Feb - March, 1998</u> - I've submitted final masters to management and label in Germany… both MCM and Massacre just hate the album… they simply don't "get it" and say I've gone too far… I'm demanding too much from the listener and it's "not really music," they say… so, here we go again… just like 93, after the release of SMI, looks like I'll spend the next several months defending my music, translating my vision & explaining my art…obviously my relationship with both MCM and Massacre may become more strained…

The European "Metal" critics are not impressed either…most of these critics see the album as too cold, way too chaotic, and far too complex to listen to… "Saviour Machine has created an almost, non listenable album that demands far too much from the listener!" Prog Rock & Goth/Industrial press is much kinder to the album… "Saviour Machine has created a modern, Apocalyptic Opera… A visionary masterpiece!" Unfortunately, the Euro-Metal press still dominates the indie music market and will inevitably affect the sales of Part II… this can only lead to further problems with "The Fatherland!" ;)

I always find great solace in quality time with my daughters… I know I'll be leaving again in a few weeks, so I'm trying to spend as much time with them as possible, before I go… Being a Daddy is the BEST job in the world! Every day, a new challenge and with it, the GREATEST of rewards! Kashmir just turned three and Kyra is now 15 months old… they are changing daily…it's truly profound, the subtle differences I notice, every day… they are like little "sponges" at this age, absorbing EVERYTHING around them… it is mind blowing to behold! I've always been Blessed with the ability to communicate and the love of teaching… ironically, teaching my children has taught me more about myself, than anything I've ever experienced… I'm learning with them… learning what it means to love, unconditionally and wholeheartedly!

I'm learning how to balance discipline and nurturing, and that the two are mutually powerful together, and in fact, part of one another… one will not ever be effective, without the other! I am learning about CONSISTENCY… it encompasses every aspect of good parenting… without it, even the most well intentioned parents, will inevitably, create confusion… It's very simple math; If you want to raise children with consistent emotional behavior, your emotional behavior must be consistent! It's not rocket science! ;) Structure, discipline, patience, nurturing, affection, communication, determination, consistency, consistency, consistency… In everything you are, in everything you do… they see it all and they WILL absorb it all…good and bad… we are accountable for everything they learn, at this age… they are, but a reflection of us, pure and simple…a "mirror image" of who we are…truly fascinating!

I believe that the greatest mistake parents make in communicating with their children, is that they don't always meet their children where THEY are… at the child's level of comprehension and understanding… it is presumptuous, disrespectful, asinine and lazy, to assume a child can possibly understand an adult's method of communication at all times…it's also very irresponsible… If a child doesn't understand one level or approach, try ANOTHER!!! Keep trying till you find the path to the child's mind, or heart, depending on what you're trying to communicate… it takes diligence, creativity and patience to teach children… it's essential to their growth and it's OUR responsibility… It is without a doubt, the greatest responsibility I've ever known, but I truly embrace it, with all that I am… I was made to be a Father… it is my calling!

Have recently resumed rehearsals for by far, the heaviest touring itinerary of our career… In addition to the Sept / Oct tour of Europe, also booked to perform eight concerts here in the U.S. between July and November… eight performances in the U.S… that's four times more than the previous 4 years combined! Rehearsals going pretty well… material is sounding great but Jeff is so "inebriated" most of the time, that he's having difficulty keeping up…

The Legend II material is very complicated… lots to remember…it's difficult enough to play this stuff sober, let alone drunk… he's absolutely miserable, I can see it in every ounce of his being…remember when he used to be the rock in SM… the one musician I could always count on to remember every note, every change…he never missed a beat…for years, the model of consistency…

It's tragic and frustrating as hell to see him like this… his heart is obviously not in this anymore and his head is completely gone… it's breaking my heart to see him like this and it's really hurting the project now… I feel as if he's hanging on by a thread… only sticking around out of obligation or loyalty… guess I'm just as guilty of this hypocrisy… sure I would have fired any other SM musician / collaborator, suffering with this affliction, a long time ago… How can I though? He's my brother, for Christ's sake… I love him and feel a tremendous and almost overwhelming sense of loyalty to him as well… Jeff and I shared the very inception of SM…we started this damn thing together!

I'm probably a bit too sensitive to people's emotional needs… for that matter, I may be hyper sensitive to their psychological and Spiritual needs, as well… Heightened empathetic intelligence can be as much of a "curse" as it may be a gift…I think it's possible to "see" or "feel" too much, sometimes…it makes for wonderful art, but it's this exact sensitivity, which can over burden the person, in every day life… the trick is finding the balance, and to this point, it still eludes me… I've yet to find a way to "harness" this sensitivity when I need it to create, and "suppress" it when I need to interact with people… in particular, larger groups of people… Those very close to me, have always told me how wonderful I am, one on one, or in a small group of people…they have also told me how lost, uncomfortable and disturbed I am, in a crowd! ;)

<u>July - August, 1998</u> - Troubled, emotional and very uncertain about the future of SM, we debut the complete Legend Part II conceptual performance at Cornerstone '98… we performed on a much larger and more technically efficient HM stage this time around… believe that the SM "spectacle" may have been the single most anticipated event at the festival this year… a huge, capacity crowd inside the blazing hot tent… plus, there must have been close to 1,000 fans surrounding the outside of the tent, in spite of the limited view of the stage… Feel like the performance was mediocre…audience appeared to be astounded…or at least, greatly amused for a few hours… probably would have enjoyed the experience if I had less on my mind… Knowing that Jeff is not going to tour Europe with SM in the Fall is devastating and complicated because I've got to inform MCM and I'm not quite sure how to approach it?

As always, at Cornerstone, met hundreds of beautiful & interesting people… was handed a ton of demos, as usual… always have been handed a number of demos, when I'm out and about, but this year, with MCM "on the rise" and with me being so closely associated with "a label," it really seemed like I got even more demos than usual… I'm looking through my briefcase at this very moment, unpacking from the trip, I count 36 of them! I'm such a "super nice guy" that I will inevitably listen to each and ever one of them, eventually… Sadly, "most" of them won't be very good… some of them will be downright

painful to listen to… ;) but there's always one / two demos of the bunch that surprise me… "Wedding Party" being a great example… a "diamond in the rough!" Of all the people I met and had brief conversations with, this year at Cornerstone, I met the singer and the guitar player (I think?) from a group called, "Evanescence"…the guitarist did most of the talking for them, and he kind of struck me as the "leader" of the band, but it was the girl, the singer I found more "sincere" and endearing… she's a beautiful girl, intriguing, shy and didn't say much, but she seemed very "real," which is always appealing to me… as in most cases, when someone gives me a demo, she spoke of what an "inspiration" and/or influence SM had been for them… it's always a nice thing to hear… theirs will be the first demo I'll listen to, once I get unpacked and settled in… I have a "feeling," simply based on my initial impression of her and by her general description of the music, that I'm going to enjoy it…

Finally had the opportunity to listen to all the demos I received recently… as "predicted," the Evanescence demo was by far, the most interesting…there's a great "vibe" here… I see enormous potential… great songs, very talented and I just adore her voice… I have always been "a sucker" for a good female vocalist… she's wonderful… passionate, and with the unique ability to truly "emote" when she sings… I can hear her sadness, her pain, her anger… she has a gift… I believe she (they) will be very successful, if they can get a break or a "push" in the right direction… In the hands of the right label, this band could be huge! I'm in an interesting position with this one… as much as I'd LOVE to produce them and believe I could greatly assist them in recording a phenomenal album, I'm "torn" between what I'd love to do and what I think might be best for their career… I've already had some "issues" with MCM, I fear these issues may continue to escalate… I always believed and told Will and Sheri, that Wedding Party had far greater potential for a "mainstream" type of success than SM… they nearly "insisted" I produce their album and that they be a part of MCM Music… I really believe MCM is too "small" a label for Evanescence…they deserve a chance to reach a greater audience and MCM simply isn't capable of marketing this, at the moment… they would force me to record and produce their album on a "shoestring" budget and it would end up selling a mere 10 thousand copies in Europe, on the Goth sub

label of Massacre Records… that's exactly what happened to Wedding Party and I don't want it to happen again here! At this point, I don't even really know how long I'M going to be with MCM or Massacre? After the way they were "so supportive" regarding Legend Part II, my status is very uncertain?

On top of this uncertainty, with Jeff's situation being what is, my own little project feels like it's hanging on by a thread! I don't even know exactly what to say to these nice people in Evanescence? Anything I'd say, as to regarding "why" MCM isn't right for them, is surely going to sound like utter bullshit and that I'm just "letting them down easy!" I've already decided not to pass along their demo to MCM… they'd want to sign them in a heartbeat and I'd probably regret "ruining their career" for the rest of my life? ;) Beyond logic and reservations, "something" is telling me to let this band go… no matter how much I'd love to work with them…" a greater force" is telling me "no!"

Arrive in Portland for Tom Fest '98… this festival is far more established and draws a much larger crowd than the Texas Fest… our performance was pretty solid but a bit eventful…I'm still trying to perfect a safe technique for burning that damn UN flag and nearly torched myself, live on stage, before 900 people… that would have been REALLY theatrical! ;) White satin stage gown is very flammable…note to self! ;) Thankfully, Jeff spotted it quickly, stopped playing his guitar for a few seconds, grabbed the lower section of my gown and put out the fire with his hands… thanks Bro…I owe you one! :)

Though the SM performance seemed to be the talk of the festival, the overall mood of the band is at an all-time low… Jeff's phone call with Theresa before the show, didn't go well at all… their Marriage is hanging on by a thread… Immediately after he got off the phone with her, he informed the entire band that tonight's performance would have to be his last for an indefinite amount of time… I knew this was coming, but it still stings like hell… guess that I'd somehow hoped and Prayed for a Miracle… probably, still Praying for one…

Had to cancel our appearance at the Vision Fest in Denver… it's less than 5 days away… was going to be the last gig on this little U.S. tour…obviously, no way to do it now… wouldn't want to, even if we could… not sure if I've ever been so sad in regards to SM related sadness? When Dean left in 95, it was crushing… this is utterly devastating… can't fathom SM without Jeff?

Made that call I'd always hoped I'd never have to make… called Joshua to let him know we need him now… he's been aware of the situation for months and has been preparing for the worst… he knows he's been my "go to guy" should the time come, and it has… we've had extensive conversations about it, he's prepared… been learning the material for several weeks… just needs a passport and he's ready to go… European tour rehearsals will begin when we return to California, in a few days… Not a single one of us, in the band, especially ME, can imagine performing without Jeff, but this tour has been booked for several months… canceling any of the dates would cause financial chaos, for all parities involved… except for me, of course… I've never made much money at all from touring… just assume stay home and be broke! ;)

After making every attempt possible to save his failing Marriage, Jeff and his wife, Theresa have separated… I have mixed emotions about it… I've really hated seeing my brother go through such a difficult experience, but I believe this separation and their inevitable divorce will eventually become a Blessing for my brother… he's such an intelligent, talented and dedicated man… he'll surely find the right woman someday… he deserves to be happy! He'll find a woman who truly appreciates "who he is" and will support him as an artist, as well as a man… God willing, the distance from this destructive Marriage, may offer him one less "reason" to drink? Maybe, just maybe, it could be the first step for him, on the long path of recovery? I don't know, but I do know he's now free of one of the great burdens in his life, two, if you count SM! ;)

Rehearsals with Joshua have been productive… I don't envy his position at all… it must be extremely difficult to be in his shoes right now; the material is complicated, it's a great deal to remember, and on top of it all, he's trying to fill Jeff's shoes… I suppose it would be like someone trying to sing for me?

It seems we're all working through some complex emotions… feelings of the unnatural experience, playing without Jeff…my greatest, immediate concern is that we at least, "sound" like SM, even if we don't exactly feel like SM…

Despite even more controversial reactions than the '97 Legend Part I tour, this tour seems to be exceeding it in overall attendance… not sure why, but it's nice to see… as strange as it is, performing without Jeff, the momentum of performing night after night, is carrying me through… I miss him greatly and although Joshua fits in stylistically and atmospherically, Jeff's presence is absent… his consistency, his energy, his "vibe"… maybe the heightened theatrical elements of this tour are in some way, "compensation" for what it is missing… who knows? I love Joshua… I really respect his courage and his commitment to doing this, especially under such enormous expectations and immense pressure… I can tell the fans like him and appreciate his playing, but I can also tell that they miss Jeff… how could they not? He was a huge part of the sound of SM and a great contributor to what SM evolved to be…

A short flight from Thessalonikki to Athens… we arrived at the venue to a mob! Eight hours before the show…hundreds of zealous fans waiting outside of the building…crazy… again, fanatical… the venue was either a huge club or a small arena… not sure, but a really cool place to perform… must be one of the more famous Rock venues in Athens… concert posters lining the walls throughout… Bowie, Zeppelin, Floyd, all performed here… very cool… I feel like a "rockstar"…after the past 48 hrs in Thessalonikki, feel like a Beatle! ;)

I consider this evening's performance one of our greatest ever! Not sure how great we actually sounded, but it sure felt like we were awesome…the energy in the room was intense… massive adrenaline rush… a phenomenal crowd! Merchandise tables afterwards, were even more crazy than in Thessalonikki and we had to cut it short… complete pandemonium! Had three of my rings stolen off of my hands, a necklace ripped right off of me, and my stage gown was torn in 2 different places… good thing the tour's over and I won't need it for a few weeks! ;) Taken back to the hotel, only to find another throng of

fans waiting for us there… at least 100 - 150 people, crowding the lobby of the hotel… how'd they find out where we were staying? Now I really do feel like a Beatle… this is crazy… how do "really" famous people live like this?

Returned home to some "good" news… Cyndi's disability benefits are being reinstated at the beginning of next month…Praise God! The fact is that they should have never ceased, but the system is what it is, and we've fallen thru the cracks a few times… so much paperwork, so many changing regulations and guidelines… too many doctors, too many lawyers, too many limitations with our health insurance…basically, far, far too much bullshit in general…

We've seen, first hand, what can happen to good, honest people… Cyndi was nearly killed in a car accident… the injuries she sustained were life altering and she suffers still, today…the guy who nearly killed her, was completely at fault and had no insurance whatsoever…Cyndi had full liability coverage on her car… If she would have been responsible for the accident, her insurance would have taken care of the victim… this asshole didn't have any insurance at all… his irresponsibility behind the wheel and his complete failure to have any coverage at all, victimized Cyndi on both levels… you would think there would be a kind of system in place for these types of unique circumstances? Cyndi's total medical bills, legal fees and lost wages have cost us a fortune… In five years, since the accident, we are probably out over 200K, all together!

<u>Dec, 1998</u> - Performed our final concert of the century tonight… headlined CRN in Germany, for the second straight year… must have been close to 2,000 people in attendance… my little candle "ritual," which has grown in audience participation, over the years, reached a whole new level tonight… I handed the single candle to someone during "Pale Horse" and I expected the usual "scattering" of a few dozen lighters and candles to show up during "The Martyrs Cry," but tonight blew my mind… 30 seconds into the intro, there were HUNDREDS of illuminated candles in the crowd… stunning! I was so moved by the gesture, I requested all the stage and house lighting be turned off… it was just gorgeous! I really don't know exactly who brought

all of these candles and how they ever coordinated it, but it was something very special… it's almost as if they somehow knew what I thought was my little secret… between the main set and the encore, I was hit with a moment of theatrical inspiration… knowing that this performance would be my last for some time, I realized I should remove my make up, on stage, as a way of "removing the barrier" between myself and the audience… remove the mask as a symbolic gesture, to close a chapter… I filled my chalice with warm water / soap and took it back on stage with me for the "Rapture" encore… I removed the make up and performed the encores while embracing several people in the crowd… I've entered the audience, many times before, but this time, I was not only saying "thank you"… I was also saying goodbye…

Of course, I probably should have told the band what I was up to… they had to play the intro for a good 10 minutes! ;) Probably should have told them how I was feeling as well… I planned to tell them on the flight home… I just really need a break from performing…I need some time at home…I'm simply burned out and overworked… I am genuinely tired of performing and of the "Rock n Roll lifestyle" all together… on top of it all, it just doesn't feel right anymore without Jeff… the European Fall tour, the U.S. dates and the CRN date were all my obligation to fulfill… they were all booked before Jeff left… All performance obligations are now fulfilled… I don't "have" to perform or tour without Jeff anymore… I don't "want" to…it's not how it "should" be!

It's very nice to be HOME! :) We don't live in a "fancy" place… it's small, it's old, but it's definitely home and it's where I want to be… I feel like I've spent more time in airplanes, than I have in my home, this year! ;) 1 9 9 8 was insane… even in attempting to reflect on it, I can't really wrap my head around it! I always feel a bit nostalgic, even "sentimental" this time of year, and I guess that's normal…it is Christmas time… it is a time to be thankful and a time to "count Blessings," etc… I am Blessed and I am thankful… for so many things… I'm thankful to be home, finally… I am thankful for what we have… it's not much, but we have a roof over our heads, some food in the refrigerator, an operational vehicle, etc… basic necessities… It would be less

stressful, of course, if our financial situation was stronger, but it is what it is, and we will survive, as we always have… I am truly thankful to have had the opportunities I've had, in the career of SM… and though it's surely been a painful and tumultuous journey, at times, it HAS been worth the price of admission to "see the show!" After a year like this one, I am also thankful to be alive! ;) My Blessings are countless… my friends, my family, my Wife and my children… without them, each of them, in some capacity, I would be a lesser man… a lonely man, with far less joy and happiness in his life… Praise be to God, Almighty… by HIS infinite mercy, I live and I am loved!

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Had to take on some part time work again… it's only the 5th time I've had to get a "real" job since committing to SM, full time, in 1991… it's funny, this is actually the first time I have even had time for a real job, in a year… SM IS my full time job…it just pays for shit! ;) Hopefully, Cyndi will be feeling well enough to go back to work soon…her job pays SO much better than any disability check… it's only about half… her job also pays way better than the part time work, I can do… Even though I'm qualified for better paying work, no one wants to hire someone who has to leave the country as often as I do… No full time employer is too hip on allowing an employee to take 6 weeks off, 2 or 3 times a year! ;) On top of that, I can only take night jobs… no way to compose, arrange and produce albums, if I had to sleep at night, in order to be up for work at 8 AM…I can't very well work on an album in the daytime, while helping to care for my children and trying to sleep for a few hours…

Working a crap night job, 4 nights a week, still allows me to help care for my girls, AND have 3 nights a week to work on the album, while maintaining a semblance of some sort of sleep pattern… all I need is 3 -5 hours… just a few every morning… I can still function, still put in some quality, focused work on the production at night, and still give my daughters the quality time they deserve, each day… I just can't see any other alternative method, to do it all!

<u>Feb - Oct, 1999</u> - Intense creative time despite my occasional fumbling with this new technology…new to me, at least… most of the music composed and some portions arranged… learning a great deal about working alone with a computer… perfect type of work for meticulous people… so very precise and mathematical, but not necessarily a healthy medium for someone who's so prone to seeking "perfection"…foresee grave danger ahead… the possibilities are endless… uh, oh… OCD…OCD…OCD… better be careful, psycho! ;)

"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy… All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy… All work and"…AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!! ;) Such a very strange way to work and probably not very healthy for me, but I'm making the most of it…the music feels greatly "inspired"…this could be the most powerful work I've ever been a part of… and it should be, for sure! Unfortunately, I know my tendencies and I'm quickly slipping into a deeply obsessive and potentially, self destructive, creative process, along the way…

Eva asked me to help produce her new album… I suppose it might be a good idea for me to take a break from Legend III for a while, anyway… I love Eva, she's hilarious… always makes me laugh! I've never known a woman who can be so completely "scatterbrained," yet, so sure of what she wants, at the same time… she's a trip! I guess we met sometime in late 1994… she had recently become a believer, discovered SM and aggressively sought me out… She somehow got my phone number, found out where I lived, called me and just showed up at my front door one night! ;) The girl definitely knows how to go after what she wants! We became good friends and I've had the distinct and "unique" pleasure of spending some quality time with her, over the past few years… Eva has been through a lot… she may be the only person I know who's living testimony is more "dramatic" than my own…she's experienced more than most will ever know…hell, more than most can even comprehend! Since she became a Christian, I know she's genuinely tried to find her place in the Christian music world… she's attempted to embrace it… I'm sure it's been disillusioning and frustrating for her… I can relate… ;) I just hope it hasn't completely turned her off… there are believers who have been and will continue to be moved by her work… There ARE true "Christians" who do

not and WILL NOT ever judge her for who she is, or where she's been… I've seen, first hand, with my own eyes, "the great deception," and I've smelled the vile stench of "evangelical hypocrisy"… I'm more familiar with it than anyone should be… the fact that it exists in such great capacity is tragic, but it has not made me cold or bitter towards the ones who perpetrate it… it has only driven me to work harder towards alleviating it… somehow… in some small capacity, hearts will continue to be opened & minds made more aware! I fear that Eva is vulnerable to bitterness… she's emotional, and may in fact be prone to impatience, even anger…I Pray that she won't be turned away…

Again…back to my "little" project… ;) Working on the Legend material has always required a bit more focus and a great deal more energy from me, than any other work I've ever done… Maybe it's just the magnitude of the work, but I believe it's more than that… much more and much "deeper" reasons… It seems to me that when an artist creates, he / she must be in a particular "space" in order to receive inspiration… an artist has to be completely open to the thoughts, ideas, narrative, "feel" and emotions he / she is attempting to interpret, project or convey… creating anything, whether it be "cerebral" or "emotional," requires an artist to "connect" with it, during the process… "IT" could be anything; thought or emotion being most common… I believe that as complicated or profound as it sounds, "the creative process" is quite simply, an advanced form of communication between artist and subject… in essence, a "connection" or "conversation" between the two… In composing all the "pre Legend material," (SMI & II) the process was fairly simple… I chose a topic, a theme or a particular subject matter to write about, and I (or) we (Jeff and/or Dean and/or Nathan and I) would attempt to represent this subject matter with the corresponding "emotion" / musical representation… When something instinctually comes from your heart or your brain or both, it's a fairly natural process to interpret it into a "musical language"… when the subject matter has been "previously written" and in the unique case of The Legend Trilogy, "previously written Word of God," the natural process of interpreting becomes a bit less "natural!" ;) It has been and IS somewhat foreboding, to say the least! ;) There is no room for error… no place for ideas and intellectual perception…no room for interjection or commentary… there

is no place for "artistic license"…it is ridged, concrete and set in stone! The only "room" in the narrative, is in the poetry of the language… the only "place" for intellectual perception or artistic license, is in musical language or how the content is "interpreted into sound"… How will I represent this particular chapter/verse with a piece of music? How can I capture the "feel" of this part of the "story?" How will I create a proper musical "soundscape" for this precise text? Does the Biblical content match the musical concept?

The "process" of this uniquely specific type of interpretation can be totally maddening, at times… The subject matter is so completely incomprehensible to the human mind, the natural process of interpreting, inevitably becomes overwhelming… to attempt to fathom such concepts with rationality or logic would surely lead to some form of insanity! From the very inception of The Legend Trilogy in the Spring of 1995, till now, just over 4 years later, I've seen what happens when I begin to get too "cerebral" with the process… it is NOT a healthy place! ;) It has become increasingly difficult to always work "from the heart" and avoid it getting in my head… it's nearly impossible at times, simply due to the fact that a production of this magnitude, complexity and length, requires a TREMENDOUS amount of organization… on top of it, I'm now spending all my "inspirational, creative time," sitting at a desk, staring at a computer monitor… the process of composing and arranging is a COMPLETELY different animal than the meticulous, technical process of programming, recording and engineering… they are diametrically opposed to one another and require different "sides" of the brain… I've experienced a type of "right brain/left brain, mass genocide" on more than one occasion! ;) The heightened level of focus required, to manage the "brain game," can be a daunting task, in itself… the amount of mental energy needed is sometimes staggering… it can even take its toll on my physical energy… strength and conditioning is probably a good idea… God knows, I definitely get plenty of "mental exercise" and now, I've recently started lifting weights, three times a week, for my body… The kind of "Spiritual openness," Biblical discipline, and Prayer required, to be in that particular "space," when working on the Legend material, is a commitment, in itself… it's a great place to be anyway, at ALL times, but for working on this project, IT IS TRULY ESSENTIAL!!!

I have to be strong in The Spirit and immersed in The Word at all times, just to be able to work on this stuff… Heart & Soul have to be completely open to "feel," connect and interpret the content into an appropriate musical form… Being there is awesome!!! It can be such a majestic and beautifully Glorious place to be… such a powerful state of "Spiritual conciseness"… it can be so intense and so profound, I feel like I'm going to explode, as if I were a kind of "Spiritual, blood vessel" in God's all powerful, infinite and ineffable mind… But then, I inevitably have to use MY mind, to attempt to "translate" all the information… to figure out how to take the "inspiration" and convert it into "technical terms"… to "work it out" as poetry and /or composition… It's so frustrating when a Spiritual "vision" has to be translated through the use of vulgar, technology based instruments, such as a computer… it can, in fact, be stifling! At times, I can be "haunted" by my human inability to convert the message… it almost always sounds better in my head and feels better in my heart! The quest to "find a match" between what's in my head/heart and what it actually ends up reading like/sounding like, is a truly devastating experience, at times… a process which can drive me utterly and completely out of my mind! It feels like I'm trying to communicate the most profoundly simple concept to someone who speaks an entirely different language… I wish I could just invite everyone who wants to hear it, into my head…each individual who wants to "see it," into my eyes… all who wish to "feel" what I feel, into my heart… granted, it's not always such a beautiful and Glorious place to be… it's a nice place to visit, but you wouldn't want to live here! ;) Much, if not, "most" of the content of The Legend Trilogy, is horrifying… This IS after all, the single darkest story ever told… it's the end of the world for God's sake! ;) So much of it deals indirectly or directly with the devil, incarnate… Satan's tyrannical reign on Earth! Global atrocities, genocide, The Wrath of God, etc… etc… etc… it's heavy shit! ;) For every moment of God's Infinite Glory, in the Trilogy, entire, there are four moments of evil, nightmarish, Hell on Earth! Inevitably, in order to create "the soundtrack" for this horror, I have to allow myself the ability to go THERE, as well… it's really NOT an awesome place! ;) In order to reflect the darkness, I have to go to the very "blackest" regions of my mind, heart and soul…it can mess with your head, considerably! ;) The overall Spiritual strength, confidence,

conviction and "willingness" to allow myself to go there, is a "Revelation" in itself… unfortunately, it often comes with a price; isolation, loneliness, sadness, anger, fear, anxiety, heightened states of paranoia, etc… You know that feeling you get when you start to fall back, in a chair? That instant and acute panic sensation you get, right before the impact of a car accident? That is pretty close to what it feels like! Being that "open" to the war being waged in the Spiritual world can greatly contribute to a truly scary and frightening existence… feelings of "impending doom" and despair… paranoid feelings and suspicions that an "enemy attack" may come from any direction and it may come at any time… it's not a healthy state of mind or a happy Spiritual place to be, but it comes with the territory… this "openness" is necessary for me to create this particular work, and somehow, do it justice, IF that is even humanly possible… I don't know? I just continue to work through it…

NOTE: From mid October 1999, thru the remainder of the year, is missing from these excerpts… "LIFE ALTERING events" (meticulously & painfully detailed in my journals) have been excluded… there is quite simply NO way of "fragmenting" these events… doing so, would inevitably create far more confusion than "clarity," in regards to these events… From this point in the excerpts, forward, you'll read a number of segments connected to this time

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<u>March, 2000</u> - Brian Healy just called me… Gene "Eugene" Andrusco died last night, in his sleep… I'm still in shock, he was only 38 years old… Gene was a brilliant recording engineer… I learned a great deal from him, in a very short period of time, recording SMI… As is the case often, in the music industry, the relationship you develop with someone you're working with on a daily basis, for 6-8 weeks, becomes "acute"… it is intense for a short time and it often, fades away, after it's all over… For Gene, I'm sure engineering SMI was just another job… he worked on tons of albums… I'm quite sure SM was not his "cup of tea," by any means, but he never indicated to me,

at ANY time, during the production, that he was not offering everything he was capable of, to enhance the sound of the album…he always appeared to be taking great care and pride in his work… even on a limited budget and time restrictions, he always seemed to explore the greater possibilities… that kind of integrity meant a great deal to me! In addition to his integrity, I loved his personality… he was a pleasure to work with, and when you spend 8-10 hrs a day with someone, for several weeks straight, it's important you like them!

In the very short time I had to kind of, "get to know him," the two aspects of his personality I connected with most, were his dry and dark sense of humor, and his love of the greatest game, ever created…Baseball! He may have loved the game as much as I do… during a music production, I'd say the majority of our conversations were Baseball, not music related! ;) He was never short of comedic wit, but on one occasion, in particular, he had every one of us in "stitches," reading aloud, an article from Rolling Stone magazine… he was reciting the "graphic" details of a recent Chuck Berry related story, in which a prostitute had come forward with a bit more information about Chuck's personal sexual "tastes," than anyone would EVER want to know about… I can't even begin to relive the details, for fear of instant nausea, but we were all laughing so hard, it was bordering on unhealthy… between Gene's bone dry, deadpan delivery of the text and the fact that the content of the article was SO completely vile and disgusting, we were all close to vomiting! ;) I wish I would had the opportunity to know him a bit better and for a greater duration of time… we had talked about going to a Dodgers game someday… Suppose it's the kind of thing that short term acquaintances plan, like a kind of "lets do lunch sometime,"…obviously, it never happened… I never really even ran into him much after the production was over…just a few times and only for a moment or two… he was working or I was working or both… life has an interesting way of getting in the way of truly living, sometimes…

Adam Pederson and Andy Heuer, long time SM fans I met that "infamous" night in Minneapolis, in November 1993, have come to visit me in CA…I'm fairly certain it's the first time either of them have ever been to California? It's mid August and it just happens to be the hottest time of the year here! ;)

Adam and I have been in contact, off and on, ever since that night in MN… our "fan / artist" relationship has grown into more of a friendship, over the past few years, in particular… the same can be said for my relationship with Andy… we're just not in as frequent contact… I've always enjoyed the time I've had with both of them, at SM events… I suppose a visit to my home was inevitable, at some point… Their visit here, has been predominantly a "fun" and recreational time… God knows, in my family's current "state of crisis," we can all use a little FUN right now… I know my girls have really enjoyed having Adam and Andy here… it's been somewhat of a constancy of events and "amusement" for them! ;) Just in the past 4 days, we've eaten out, gone to local theme parks, arcades, mini golf and even Disneyland… Adam seems intent on cramming as much fun as possible, into the short time here… he's also been paying for most of it, maybe out of sheer generosity and possibly as a way of saying "thanks" for letting us crash at your house? Doesn't matter to me… I'm happy to have them here… it's been a nice diversion for me and the kids are having a blast, just getting to do some things we haven't really been able to do much of, over the past year, with all that has been going on…

Adam seems to have no problem keeping up with my nocturnal schedule… Andy on the other hand, must be more of a "morning person"…I can tell the late nights and constant activities are catching up with him! ;) He is trying to "adapt" but it's understandable…it'd be like asking me to become a "day" person, for a hundred hours straight…I could do it…I have, but it sucks and it's just not "natural" for me… they're heading back to MN tomorrow…I'm fairly certain Andy is going to need a few days of sleep to recover! ;) Adam has been staying up, most of the nights with me…we've had some quiet time to chat, in the "wee hours," when everyone's asleep… inevitably, I've begun sharing with Adam, the nearly unimaginable, "gory" details of the past year and what we've been going through…I can see the obvious "Holy fuck balls" look in his eyes, the deeper I get into the insanity of the story and the further I go through the course of events… it sounds crazy enough, just coming out of my mouth, I can only imagine the impact of receiving such information… Adam is probably the first person, outside of close friends, family and MCM, whom I've spoken to, about any of this… It's been somewhat " cathartic" for

me to talk about and hopefully not too "traumatic" for him to hear… I guess it's my way of "letting him in" to my inner circle? Obviously, I trust him or wouldn't be telling him about it…despite "the horror," he seems to be taking it all in stride… he's got such a dark sense of humor, I'm sure that helps! ;)

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MCM and Massacre have both started putting a bit more pressure on me, regarding the completion of Legend III… Massacre is a bit ambiguous with their pressure… I guess they don't really know exactly what's been going on with me, over the past 14 months… not sure how much MCM has informed them of the situation? MCM has been a bit more "gentile" in their pressure, due to the fact, they actually know what's going on… we have weekly talks and updates… A year ago, I believe they were genuinely concerned about us, and how we would make it through this ordeal… I'm sure it has become very confusing and frustrating for them, as well… it's difficult enough for ME to completely understand the situation, and I'm right in the middle of it! I can sense their frustration and I can see the signs, that their patience is running out… they've started asking less about how Cyndi and I are doing, and more about the progress of the album… I guess it's to be expected… this entire ordeal has gone on, for what seems to be a lifetime… it probably feels even longer to them… they don't have the "advantage" of preoccupation… we are right in the middle of it, and everyone knows how time goes by, when you're having fun! ;) Nonetheless, it's strikes me as just a bit insensitive, on their part… I know it's been 3 years since Legend II was released, but it's not like I've been just hanging out…screwing around…not working on it, because I don't feel like it… my entire LIFE was turned upside down, 14 months ago and it's not over yet… realistically, it may take another 6 months to finish the jail time and complete all the community service time, which the State of CA won't even allow us to start, until the jail time is served… I just hope MCM understands that we're not out of the woods yet…still a ways to go…

Massacre and MCM refuse to wait any longer for Legend Part III… they've approached me with the idea of "splitting" the 2 discs worth of material, into 2 separate releases… I'm not pleased about this idea at all, I hate it, but what choice do I really have? My contract with Massacre is for 3 albums, between 1996 and 2000…we're already into 2001, I'm an album short…as much as I detest the idea of splitting Legend Part III, I really must now focus all of my energy on the immediate production of "III:I"… recording begins in March!

<u>March - May, 2001</u> - Feels like a shotgun wedding in HELL! Three months to record and ten days to mix, in the midst of 250 hrs of community service and all while attempting to care for my family… most stressful production ever!!! I'm recording an album in a home studio that is being built as we go along… recording in a new digital format… endless possibilities but so little time to explore them… last time I will ever have a deadline! NEVER again!

Recording with Joshua is going well, it's just a stressful time… relaxation is such a key element in a healthy, creative atmosphere… I know that if we had a bit more time, the atmosphere would be more relaxed and the final results would be better… I'm troubled by the idea that I will probably complete this album and always wonder what it "could have been" if I had only had more time? I loathe the idea of having regrets… in anything… life is too short… Joshua and his wife have been such an enormous Blessing to me, my family and the project… without them, I can't imagine how this album would ever get made…they have opened their home to me and sacrificed time together… I'm there for several hours every day and night, consuming huge chunks of Joshua's time and energy… he's always been so gracious with his time for me and so many SM related projects, over the years…graphics, artwork, this and that, the website, demos, now recording an entire album… he's always been reliable and he's always been very meticulous about his work… I owe him a great deal and I truly consider him to be one of my closest friends…

Lately, Adam has been a tremendous help to Cyndi and I as well… he's been living with us for the past few months, taking care of the girls when Cyndi and I are both working, helping out around the house, feeding the animals,

keeping me sane, etc…etc… I can't thank him enough, he's just been simply awesome to have around! It's funny… when I met him in 93, he was a 15 yr old, goofy SM super fan… I never would have imagined that over the years, he would become such a close friend… plus, he's absolutely hilarious! Of all my closest friends, he's probably the one who's sense of humor is most like my own… pitch-black-dark, totally inappropriate, razor sharp… I love him!

Jeff has reluctantly agreed to record some guitars for III:I, but I can tell he'd rather eat his own shit, than spend time with me in the studio… I know how difficult I am to work with… I know how my meticulous perfectionism must drive everyone crazy… it's no great "Revelation" to me… I've been aware of my "production insanity" for years, but watching my brother drink himself into a state of oblivion in order to make it through a recording session with me, is truly depressing… it's become painfully apparent that the project cripples everyone closely involved with it and leaves a body count along the way… I am surely responsible for at least some, if not all of the fatalities… I should really be tried and executed for crimes against musician's sanity! ;) It's strange… I know what a sensitive issue it is for Jeff to be involved with anything SM related, anymore, but I thought it would be different, now that he's in a better Marriage, has a beautiful new daughter and he's happier… I guess if he was truly happier, he wouldn't still be drinking so much…I don't know… maybe he isn't drinking as much, anymore? Maybe he only needs to be completely "shit faced" around me? I shouldn't have asked him to do this!

Recording with Jeff has been extremely awkward… it is in no way, inspired or productive… it's been quite the opposite…uninspired, disheartening, sad, painful, forced and frustrating… the only "positive" thing that's come from this experience is the tragic realization that Jeff is still miserable… he is still so unhappy and still filled with so much anger and bitterness…he still seems to harbor so much resentment towards the project and towards me… I know now, that Jeff's pain is coming from a place far deeper than I ever realized… I should have known better than to ever "connect" his alcoholism to a failing Marriage or a "love / hate" relationship with his brother… rarely, if ever, is alcoholism a "symptom" of external circumstances… it is usually connected

to, if not, the very center of the disease, itself… Fear, worry, anxiety, lack of control, self loathing, anger, bitterness, resentment, insecurity, guilt… etc… They are all "triggers" for the behavior… they're all "excuses" for escapism! The experience of trying to work together again has been painful, for both of us, I'm sure… but it's been "eye opening" for me… I should have seen this long ago…love is definitely blind, sometimes…as much as I love my brother, I'll have to continue to keep my distance, be patient and allow him to come to his own realization of the truth… in all cases of addiction, the path towards freedom and recovery can only be found when the addict is ready to seek it…

Drums recorded, now attempting to mix 18 songs in ten days, an average of 100 tracks of audio per song… it's simply not enough time… not even close! Neither Bruno in Germany or Brian in Los Angeles were available to mix III:I until Fall… the only guy we could find who was available and wasn't scared to death by the volume of audio to deal with, was a friend of a friend of Vic's in Nashville…he's a cool guy and a capable mixing engineer but I'm sure he's never worked with this many tracks before… it's obvious that he's a bit overwhelmed… between the sheer magnitude of the project, the limited budget and the quickly approaching deadline, he's completely stressed out… His stress combined with mine, makes for a very tense & unhealthy working environment… my frustration with this production is at an all time high!

If circumstances couldn't get worse…today, Cyndi collapsed upon returning home from a business trip… she's in the hospital with a blood clot in her left lung… My God…what's next? Is this it? Is this seemingly "cursed" project finally going to kill someone? My WIFE, no less? What great tragedy must transpire to pave the way, this time? Which obstacle must now be overcome? Which great Spiritual / life "lesson" is to be learned this time around? What horrific and terrible price is to be paid? Have we NOT already paid enough?

With my Saviour Machine / Spiritual Warfare related "superstitions" and paranoia at the brink of delusional, I booked an immediate, emergency flight back home… though I've spent a great deal of time on airplanes over the past 7 years, and have never experienced any type of flying anxiety, I consider

the possibility of not making it home… I feel an almost impending sense of doom… cataclysmic events are looming in the sky… something devastating is coming soon! What the hell is going on in my head? These thoughts are completely insane… not to mention, lofty, self important and narcissistic… Need a drink and a "chill pill"…unfortunately, don't use either anymore! ;)

Arrived in CA safely and was met at the airport by my beautiful daughters and my friend Jeff, who was caring for them… after gently assuring them that Mommy was going to be fine, we proceeded directly to the hospital… After a long series of tests and a steady flow of blood thinners, the blood clot was dissolved and Cyndi was released to go home… bed rest recommended for the next few days… I've already lost 2 valuable days of mixing but refuse to return to Nashville until I'm 100% convinced Cyndi is going to be ok? Part of me wants to just "throw in the towel"… I'm SO sick and tired of the whole damn thing… I've never given up on anything in my life, but enough is ENOUGH! I'm so DONE with all of it… the DRAMA! It may, in fact be "fatalistic thinking," but at what point does "consistency of coincidence" actually become FATE? Why doesn't crazy, horrible shit happen when I'm NOT doing anything SM related? I know I sound like a paranoid lunatic, but this shit is REAL… no joke… it's enough to make a man "tentative!"

My Mother and Cyndi's Mother, both assured me that my Wife would be well cared for and that I should return to Nashville… I flew back, haste fully completed the mixing of Legend Part III:I, mastered it all in a few hours with Michael Wagner, sent the master, overnight to Germany for manufacturing and I returned home to CA… I'm disappointed in the production, physically exhausted and emotionally spent…I need a few days to gather myself…some time to recover… that was all a bit too intense, even for me… I've got about two weeks to prepare for Cornerstone Festival 2001… it will be SM's first performance in 19 months and our 1st concert in the U.S., in exactly 2 years!

<u>July, 2001</u> - I reluctantly released Legend Part III:I at Cornerstone 2001… It was a truly painful day for me as an artist…I knew the album was grossly unfinished and I vowed never to release another, before it is ready… NEVER

AGAIN! It is a particularly stressful time with MCM… we had a massive business meeting, blow up inside the RV, a few miles from the festival… it's the closest I've ever been to physically assaulting someone… I believe that I truly "saw red" for a moment…I'm not at all proud of what transpired there or of the circumstances which contributed to the heightened state of stress, but I'm thankful it happened…I learned a great lesson from it and I obtained extremely valuable information I needed to know… discovered a particularly disturbing character in deficiency in my business partners… from here on, I don't think our relationship will ever be the same… the situation is resolved for the moment, but much has been changed in my perspective… only time will tell where things go from here…at this moment, I'm ready to walk away from the music business all together! I'm pissed off, bitter, stressed out and broke as hell… I've allowed myself to be used, exploited and manipulated for several years… I'm disgusted with my naïveté and greatly disappointed in my willingness to trust, so unconditionally… NEVER again will I make the moronic assumption that there are financially minded people in the music industry who are actually involved for reasons far greater than money…

I have lost all faith in the belief that a businessman could quite feasibly care about "art" over profit… lost hope in the lofty concept of "Ministry" before money… perspective is everything and at the moment, from where I stand, everything looks like SHIT!! 47 K in total fines and legal fees in less than 15 months is financially devastating to my family… I've just released an album I know is unfinished and I feel as if I've let the fans and the project down… I'm creatively uninspired, Spiritually un centered and I'll be damned if I'm anywhere near ready to begin working on the final part of the Trilogy in this condition… My wife and I have just endured nearly 2 years of the greatest ordeal we've ever faced… 22 months of perpetual insanity! Despite the faces we keep for our children, family and friends, we are both psychologically and emotionally damaged by what we've recently gone through together… a true and complete healing may require time… God knows how long? And God… PRAISE BE TO HIM!!! For without him, at the center of our Marriage, the institution itself, would have surely been utterly annihilated through all of this… our 2 young daughters, the immediate casualties of the devastation…

I'm very tired and feel increasingly proned to reclusive tendencies… I'd like to lock myself in my studio and never have to leave the house again but I've got nearly 100 hrs of community service still to complete… guess I'll have to leave the house, in order to stay out of jail! ;) I can't work, can't sleep, can't seem to find anything I "want" to do… feels like I'm spinning my wheels… I just want this whole damn thing to be over so we can get on with our lives!

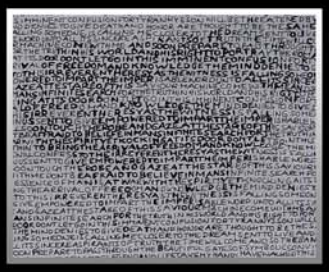
<u>Aug, 2001</u> - Finally completed the full 250 hours of my community service sentence… for the first time in what seems like a long time, I don't feel like an elephant is sitting on my chest… feels like I can finally breath again… Our attorney explained to us that once Cyndi completes her remaining sixty hours, and all the corresponding paperwork is filed with the County, he will then have our criminal records "expunged" and we will be considered "good American citizens" again… ;) At that time, we can re obtain all of the items which were taken from our home, by the State of CA, in October of 1999… I've already re obtained the items (fan mail, CD's, videos, lyrics, pics) which were seized by the Federal Government…I got all that stuff back, over a year ago, shortly after the "Y2K freak out," faded away and the Fed investigation ended! There's a certain "liberation" in knowing you've survived something so completely insane and traumatic…I suppose it makes you feel as if you've been to hell and back, and if you're still kicking, after all of it, what else can the world possibly ever do, to keep you down? In some ways, I feel like I am ready to take on anything…maybe I'll start with something simple at first… I may try to reply to several hundred e-mails that have piled up over the past few months… maybe even return some phone calls, tour inquiries, etc, etc… Don't necessarily feel like working on SM related stuff, especially the III:II material, but at least I can entertain the idea now… that's a good start! ;)

<u>Oct - Nov, 2001</u> - Finding some "quality time" for my family…I believe the events of 9/11 have helped put some things in "perspective" for Americans, in general…for myself, a "reminder" of what is most important in our lives; God, family, friendships, loyalty, integrity, humanity and community… I've noticed a kind of "unifying sense of patriotism" throughout the country…

People, in general, seem to be treating each other, a little better lately… hard to know how long it's going to last, but it's nice for the moment! ;) I'll enjoy this "acute outbreak of human decency" while I can… eventually, I'm fairly certain it will soon fade away, into the "normalcy" of our modern American, "ME" centric culture…as cynical as it sounds, it is what we've become…the pragmatist in me, knows how quickly people forget… how easily "diverted" our attentions become… I hate to say it, but I truly believe there is far more to this, than what currently "meets the eye?" A "bigger picture" is looming!

Putting in some focused work on III:II… starting to find a "groove" again… falling into what I call "the rhythm of genius," where everything "flows" in a kind of "perpetual cycle" of innovative ideas and clear translations of these ideas, into reality… unfortunately, it's fleeting and never lasts as long as I'd like it to! ;) Just a simple "distraction" and it can be gone, before you know it… in the meantime, I'll revel in it, embrace it and enjoy it while it lasts…

<u>Dec, 2001</u> - Perform in Germany at CRN 2001… first SM performance in 6 months and the first concert in Germany in exactly 3 years… even if I had actually wanted to perform live in Europe, it's the first time I've been able to leave the U.S. legally in over 2 years, due to my passport being confiscated on Oct, 19th, 1999 and only recently being returned to me… feels strange to be able to travel again… even stranger to perform with make up and props, so soon after 9/11…I chose to do a simple, stripped down concert…it seemed appropriate at this time… I'm sure some fans were disappointed by the lack of theatricality but it just felt right to do it this way, this time… plus… I'm not quite ready to be drenching middle eastern flags in blood or burning UN flags after recent events (9/11) and probably even more "gun shy" about controversial theatrics, considering how much the US government took such an interest in my "art" after the 1998 tours/concerts…It's amazing what an FBI interrogation and subsequent investigation can do to slow down artistic license… sort of thing tends to make a daring man "cautious" for a while! ;)



THE POINT IS TACKLING BACKWARDS
POINTING SACRILIGEOUS
PICTURES...

- 2 0 0 2 -

<u>Jan - Feb, 2002</u> - Began preparation for the upcoming March concert film… I've finalized the set list and I have a clear picture of the overall conceptual flow of the material… thematically, this will surely be the most unrelenting combination of songs we've ever performed… set has a fairly solid balance of material from Parts I, II & III:I and should lend itself to great theatricality… I've chosen not to include any SMI or II material in the first 2 hours of the performance… it would completely break the conceptual flow of the Legend material and disrupt the intensity of the content… I've chosen to save all of the pre Legend material, for an hour long, encore set… most of this material was already featured in the 1995 concert… I see no need to repeat it for this production and wouldn't perform any of it at all, if not for the fan's desire to hear it… "American Babylon" is the only song I may include on the DVD…

Completed the theatrical design and now pondering the logistics of all props, lighting design, rehearsals, etc… as always, all things in the limited confines of an independent production budget… even in being as "thrifty" as possible with all aspects of production, this venture will likely be the most expensive and elaborate SM & MCM have ever collaborated on… the pressure is on…

Had to adjust my original lighting design for the video medium… a much more stark and atmospheric lighting would have been beautiful on film, but I'm told, will be far too dim / dark for video… personally, I'm not convinced this is true, but as always, compromises are a part of any collaboration… it's frustrating and unfortunate…film is far too expensive but it would be great!

<u>March, 2002</u> - Arrived in Germany, four days before the concert, in order to have a few days of rehearsal, all together… Nathan, Chuck and I have been rehearsing to click tracks for the past few weeks in CA… Calle and Thomas have been rehearsing together in Sweden… these few days in Germany are the only time we have as a complete "band"… very interested to hear what

SM actually sounds like? Calle and Thomas are great musicians and will be very technically precise, I'm sure… I just hope we can still capture a vibe?

Rehearsals are going well… not sure what I expected, but they are going far better than I anticipated, considering the complexity and length of the set… It's about 3 hours and 20 minutes long… to rehearse the entire set twice in a day, takes 7 hours… it's crazy and a bit exhausting… Calle and Thomas are great dudes…I really love them both and I enjoy their personalities…the two of them combined, "almost" distract me from missing my brother so much… It's been nearly 4 years since Jeff and I played music together, but there's still an emptiness I feel, every time SM rehearses or performs… don't believe it would matter if I had 20 brilliant guitarists on stage… it still wouldn't be my brother… I figure the longer he's away from SM, the less I'll miss his presence in the project…at least, I hope that's the case…I can't even imagine the desire to perform at all, if it doesn't get easier without him, from here… I suppose I have to face the facts… the reality is that I've never really loved the process of performing… I enjoy the "act" itself, but I dread the process! In all likelihood, this concert will be the final SM performance of all time…

The EPIC performance tonight was like running a marathon! In the end, it must have been over 4 hours long… I'm exhausted, but I'm pleased with the overall production and execution of the concert… a handful of mistakes, but nothing we can't work around in post production…hope the visual footage is as powerful as it seemed to be, while performing it… Pray the audio was all recorded well… felt the Spirit move in tremendous capacity, several times throughout the concert… "The End of The Age, The Promise, The Lamb" & "American Babylon" all possessed a particularly moving element tonight…

<u>April - Dec, 2002</u> - After probably way too much thought on the issue, I've chosen the title, "Live in Deutschland 2002" for the project…not only is this a kind of "sequel" to the 1995 concert, it just happens to be the year 2002, making it a clever little play on the "II" / "2002" thing…find it amusing! ;)

Completed final visual editing and audio synchronization in Germany…I'm quite pleased with the results… looks great, sounds great… I only wish we were able to shoot on film, using my original, darker lighting design… Overall, the production is a good representation of SM live… it captures the "essence" of the material, the technical proficiency of the musicians and most of all, the operatic, dramatic and thematic impact of the performance…

Agreed to do some "semi-explanatory" interview footage for the DVD bonus features…I really hate the idea of trying to "explain" or elaborate on art, but in this case, I suppose it's ok… much prefer people to interpret theatricalities on their own, without preface, pretense, or pre conceived interpretations… Every time I'm asked, or worse… "expected" to explain a theatrical element, a message, a song or a lyric, I feel as if it completely violates the art, itself!

I have begun working on III:II again… sort of… after only a few months, my focus has been taken over by an almost overwhelming feeling of anxiety and a severe kind of depression… so very strange, confusing and debilitating… Not sure how to manage this, or if it's even possible to do so? Praying about it often… searching for some reason, some meaning, a possible resolution?

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<u>2003</u> - Some very dear friends of mine, recently suffered a terrible tragedy… Aaron and Chelle Anderson, SM fans, who've become much closer to me, in the past 2 years, have lost their baby girl, Rebecca… Chelle phoned me today and just tore my heart out… I can't even begin to fathom the pain they must be going through… experienced a fair share of tragedy and suffering over the course of my life, but the thought of losing a child is incomprehensible to me! Aaron and Chelle are beautiful people… Faithful, devoted believers… bright, intelligent, humorous, thoughtful, warm and kind… They are an interracial couple, (Aaron is a black man, Chelle is a white woman… they live in Texas) one of only three, whom I know personally…(the 2 other couples I know, live here in CA, a more "liberal" State, traditionally ;) I'm sure their Marriage,

being perceived as so "untraditional," has been difficult enough to manage in a society of such ignorance and intolerance… A healthy Marriage is hard to maintain, at times, even with the loving support of family and friends… I can only imagine how strong and resilient two people who love each other, must be, in order to face the additional, blatant resistance of racial prejudice! I posted the tragic news of their loss, on the SM message board this evening and asked for immediate, immense Prayer and support for Aaron and Chelle, from SM fans, all around the world… I do believe the SM fans will respond in droves…I Pray for their broken hearts to be mended and in time, healed… I Pray their troubled minds be relieved… In the name of JESUS… Amen!

I was "dragged" to see the movie "Daredevil" tonight by my brother Jared… (what a piece of cinematic garbage ;) I enjoy a good comic book flick as much as the next guy, but this was not one of them! The only reason I'm writing about it is because I'm almost certain I heard one, if not 2 songs in the movie by the band "Evanescence?" I'd swear it was them… as completely shitty as the film was, maybe this will help to launch their career? I hope it does, they deserve it… obviously, they caught a break, getting a song or two in such a high profile, major studio release can't hurt… who knows what can happen?

TJ being here and doing so well, is inspiring… I'm "alive" and I've started working again… not going too well, but at least this strange depression is starting to make some sort of sense to me…I'm not sure if I've been given an answer through Prayer or if it's simply through a rational analysis, but I'm beginning to believe that our legal ordeal, which finally ended over one year ago, has finally "hit me"… feel as if I'm completely unprepared for a type of "delayed mourning" I may be experiencing… I believe that I may have finally "accepted" what my wife and I went through personally and I finally have a chance to kind of "mourn over it"… for the first time since the ordeal, I have the time to cry… I don't have to be completely fearless and strong for my family right now… I suppose I can finally allow myself to "feel" about it in some capacity at all… strange, that only now, does it truly "hit me" and this healing process is brutal and disorienting… feels as if I've lost an entire year of my life in a type of "post traumatic stress syndrome" or something?

Fear, shame, paranoia, anxiety and an overall sadness seems to prevail at times… I can't seem to work, I can't seem to focus and I really don't want to leave the house anymore… reclusive and anti-social behavior emanates…

It's very strange… the better TJ seems to get, the less he needs me, the more I notice myself, feeling worse… I guess it's a matter of simple psychology… The more a person who suffers from depression, can focus their energies on others needs, the less time they have to focus / brood on their own sadness… It's a cruel paradox, indeed… it makes me a bit concerned for the future… if this sadness I have, is temporary, no problem, but if it is in fact, long term, how will it effect me in the years to come? As my children get older, mature, and become increasingly independent, they'll "need" much less from me… what kind of profound adjustment will that require? Maybe I'm just being a bit too pragmatic, but it's something to consider… I've spent most of my life helping people, teaching people… what happens when there's no one around to help or to teach? What if I actually lose the desire to help or to teach?

I've accepted a kind and generous invitation to perform some guest vocals on a concept album, by an interesting, Dutch, Progressive Rock artist named, Arjen Lucassen… He is a very talented and prolific musician… The concept of the album is quite fascinating… it revolves around a man in a coma and the "voices" in his head…I am the voice of "Reason"…looking forward to it!

Arrived in The Netherlands… Amsterdam… Nov, 2003… Arjen greeted me at the airport… He'd offered to let me sleep first, before we started recording, since I'd been awake for over 27 hours, but it just felt right to start… ended up knocking out a large percentage of the vocals, that day… I told him I'd be happy to give him multiple takes, the next day, but he seemed fairly pleased with everything… Finished up the remainder of the vocals, the following day and ended up with a great deal of time to spare…that's when he asked me for a "favor," an additional vocal… A cover of Bowie's, "Space Oddity!" Oh no, that's "sacred"… some songs should just NEVER be covered, and this is one of them… I can't do it… it's against my "Religion," I told him! ;) Arjen is a very persuasive guy, and I'm still not sure how, but he talked me into it! ;)

Still ended up with an entire day to burn, before returning home… spent the afternoon in Amsterdam, at the Anne Frank House / Museum… a profound and mind blowing experience… I'd love for my daughters to experience this someday… maybe, when they're a bit older and they've had the chance to read the diary… Enjoyed my time here…Arjen & his Wife were very kind…

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<u>Jan - April, 2004</u> - I've resumed actual production of III:II, after taking an entire year off for "LID 2002" and a solid year of weird, dysfunctional work habits and a strange depression… all sequenced orchestral and percussive arrangements are final and recording of programming is now complete… I haven't even started recording actual humans yet, and I've already got an average of 120 tracks of audio recorded for each song… uh oh… this is going to be crazy by the time all the human audio is recorded; drums, bass, guitars, piano, vocals, choirs, additional live strings & percussion and a few samples here and there… could be looking at 250 tracks of audio in some of the more densely arranged songs… I'll never find an engineer insane enough to mix this monstrosity…I'll probably have to mix it myself…that should be fun! ;)

Holy shit… Evanescence just won a Grammy Award for "Best New Artist" tonight! I think they may have won another as well, and were nominated for like 4 or 5 in total… I guess my "instincts" not to lock them into a contract with MCM, served me (and them ;) well? I'm so very happy for them… it's awesome! Wonder when I'll get that "Eric, thank you for not fucking up our career, before it got started," letter or email? ;) They probably still think I'm just another, in a series of "assholes," who simply never called them back? ;)

My friend, Brain really needs a place to stay for a while… he's coming out of a complicated divorce and an extremely unsettling domestic experience with some formally close friends… I know he'd never ask me, so I offered… Brian has become one of my dearest friends, over the years… I know he's hurting

right now and I'm quite sure that just being in a warm, kind, relaxed, family environment right now, would be good for the soul… like all of us, in times of great distress or transition, he just needs a friend, right now… someone to talk to, and more importantly, someone who'll actually listen! Next to my Father, Brian was my greatest "confidant," during my Federal / State crisis from Fall 1999 to late Summer 2001… just having someone I could honestly TRUST, completely and wholeheartedly, made it possible for me to share the experience with…an intelligent pragmatist to share the frustration with me, to "marvel" at the absurdity of the situation, to offer perspective, distance and objectivity, when I may have been too close to it, to see the big picture… It was a time when talking to my Wife, would have only brought her greater worry…I was HER confidant, the one who she "vented" to, the one who had to assure her, we would make it through the horrific ordeal… In addition to God's infinite strength, at times, I needed a team, a "triad" of council to keep me going… My Father, Pastor Dave and Brian Healy were my team… they gave me a place to "vent," reflect and re gather my head, rather than taking frustrations, fears, paranoia, worries or concerns, anywhere near my wife… Besides the ultra heavy conversations Brian and I had during that time, we have burned hundreds of hours, over the years, talking about anything and everything else… Brian is the ULTIMATE conversationalist…he is without a doubt, the single most hilarious person I've ever known… funny as hell! ;) He was there for me during my '99-'01 crisis and I spent a great deal of time with him, during his divorce… he needs me now and I'm happy to oblige…

After 10 days here, Brian has moved onto far more qualified council than I… Pastor Dave and Brian have been close friends for years… Dave has a little more space at his place, so Brian can actually have a bedroom and not just a couch to crash on… ;) Pastor Dave is a professional… his "council" may be far more effective for Brian, than anything I can provide during this time… I'm probably a bit to wrapped up in III:II work, to be the friend I "should" be at the moment… my place was just more of a "transitional crash pad" on his journey… I'm heading to Sweden in less than six weeks, to begin recording drums, guitars, vocals and choirs… I wish I could have been an even greater assistance to Brian, I'm just swamped with work and I've got a deadline…

The full orchestral and percussion rough mixes are finished and all files are prepared for recording humans… sent CD's to Calle and Thomas in Sweden so they can begin rehearsals…I'll be heading there in May, to record guitars, drums and possibly my vocals… then, to Germany for a few days to record all the choirs, which I'm excited about… this time, the choir will be 3 times the size of the 2 previous choirs… along with the choral arrangements, I've sent the choir director a CD as well… they'll have several weeks to rehearse and prepare for the recording… this choir should really sound amazing! I hope that Calle and Thomas aren't too overwhelmed by the material… I'm sure they are both very capable… they're great musicians, but I know how daunting the material is… it's just so much too listen to, let alone, absorb…

<u>May - Sept, 2004</u> - Sweden…May…It's very beautiful here… working with Calle is going well… he's a consummate professional, an extremely talented musician and a pleasure to be around… he and his wife have been so kind to allow me to stay here, in their home… I really enjoy the rural living here…

After a week of recording the drums and few weeks of recording guitars, I've completed a large percentage of my vocal recording… I'll estimate that over 70% of the vocals for III:II are now recorded… 2 weeks straight, 6-8 hours of singing each day and literally, HUNDREDS of takes… I'm sure I'll deeply regret my decision to record so many takes, when I'm faced with the task of having to choose from them… listening to, selecting and actually editing all these vocals will surely suck like hell… I'm not looking forward to it at all…

The entire process could potentially be a nightmare for me, and it will be a self inflicted nightmare… my own damn fault for insisting on recording so many takes, so many variations, inflections and nuances… unfortunately, I felt like I "had" to… as I always have… I'm the king of multiple takes…way too many takes, sometimes, and this time, with time and technology at my disposal, I went nuts… regret pending… until then, I'm quite content with everything recorded and very pleased with the progress of the production…

Recording choirs in Germany… it's a great choir…about three times the size of the previous choirs, recorded for I, II & III:I… they sound better rehearsed and prepared… harmonically, balanced and "tonally" better as well… this is surely going to be the best translation/recordings of my choral arrangements on the entire Trilogy… it's exciting and encouraging… the only real downer about being here is that I "sense" my relationship with Rainer and Matthias is becoming more distant all the time… it's difficult to articulate, but it just doesn't "feel" the same, anymore…I see and hear an ever growing animosity in their faces, their body language and in their actual language…maybe they are simply "going on fumes," as I am… I'm not sure, but I am sure that I've heard about as much "Anti American rhetoric" as I'm prepared to listen to! It seems that ever since "W" forced his way into the U.S. Presidency, all I've heard from them is "Fucking Americans" this and "Fucking Bush" that… it gets old, quick…I feel like they're "venting" their frustrations with an entire foreign policy on me, ONE American… hell, I didn't even vote this time and by the way things turned out, it wouldn't have mattered if I did! I've known these guys for almost 10 years now and never once have I ever said anything remotely derogatory about Germany or Germany's recent history…"recent" being, let's say, the last Century? God knows I'd have plenty of material to work with! ;) Maybe they're actually just so frustrated with me, that they're attacking U.S. foreign policy and calling all Americans "dumb, ass holes" to spread their disenchantment away from being singularly focused on me? ;)

I'm HOME…Praise God!!! After being away for nearly 5 weeks, I've missed my children tremendously…it's the longest I've ever been away from both of them…they look like they've each grown an inch, since I left… heartbreaking in the sense that I know I've missed over a month of their young lives… they change so fast, so rapidly when they're young… it feels like a sin to miss one single day, let alone, nearly 40 consecutive! Not sure if I can do this again?

This has been the most efficient and intense work year in the production of III:II…I've been able to maintain an average of 75-80 hrs of focused work per week, for the greater part of the year… this schedule seems to be taking its toll on me, but the work is good…just can't "think about" what I'm doing…

Seems like if I stop, for even just a second, to think about how much work is still ahead of me, I start to feel a bit overwhelmed… even worse, anytime I allow myself to consider the "magnitude" of the project, it can totally freak me out… worst of all, I feel enormous pressure when I think about what the music is supposed to represent… the content itself, is so unfathomable, so unimaginable, so utterly and completely daunting that it can be paralyzing to face it… despite the pressures and the occasional psychological stumbling blocks, I'm truly starting to believe that III:II can be completed and finally released sometime in late 2005… God willing, it should be over soon…

<u>Oct, 2004</u> - I've been experiencing frequent abdominal pain & discomfort… far greater than usual… headaches, constant indigestion, severe heartburn and sleeping problems have all increased to a level I've never experienced… Unfamiliar abdominal pains and frequent, violent awakenings, choking to death, when attempting to sleep, are starting to concern me… it's difficult enough for me to sleep anyway… fear of waking up vomiting pure stomach bile is only adding more anxiety to an already anxious experience for me…

Finally made an appointment to see to the doctor about what's going on with me… truly despise going to the doctor… just HATE it… the paperwork, the waiting, insurance bullshit, surrounded by sick people… it's a nightmare! A large percentage of my anxieties and phobias, all culminating in a single, miserable event…; Social anxiety disorder / surrounded by people I don't know… Claustrophobia / confined space of a doctor's office… Germ phobia / sick people everywhere… AHHHHHH… can't wait, should be awesome! ;)

Doctor's appointment(s) took nearly 5 hours… tons of questions, paperwork, some tests and then, they sent me to a specialist, for more of the same… sent me to another building for "lab work" and blood tests as well… without a doubt, a horribly invasive and miserable experience… sure hope I'm not too sick… can't imagine having to endure many more fun filled, wondrous days at doctor's offices… told me that the test results can take up to 10 days…

Blood work and medical history confirms a diagnosis of "severe acid reflux disorder"… yeah, no shit?! Tell me something I don't already know! ;) I've had an acid stomach since I was 9 years old… I've suffered from daily bouts of heartburn since the days when they called it "heartburn" and told me to take antacids when needed… I've kept a roll of "Tums" in my pocket and on my nightstand since I was a kid… taken thousands & thousands of those little calcium tabs over the years… kept the damn company in business! ;)

Doctor prescribed what he called "the strongest proton inhibitor available!" Supposed to greatly reduce the need for antacids by virtually "shutting off" the acid production in my stomach… more importantly, supposed to reduce the chances of waking up choking on that horrible, scalding bile, anymore… Unfortunately, that was the good news… bad news is that he's insisted on scheduling me for an endoscope exam in late December… this "endoscope" sounds like it's going to be a blast…talk about invasive…they put me under, shove a tube down my throat, stick a camera in there, probe around, take a biopsy and send me home with an aching esophagus… Merry Christmas! ;)

<u>Nov, 2004</u> - After nearly a year of being courted by Mexico City promoters, I've finally agreed to perform again at a large sports arena venue, South of the border… never thought I'd perform again, but these Mexican promoters were so "politely relentless" in their quest for SM… they made me an offer I simply couldn't refuse… by far, the most lucrative offer for a SM concert we've ever gotten… the money from this single performance could finance the remainder of the production of III:II… I look at this opportunity as a gift from God… no matter how badly I don't wish to perform again and more so, how unstable and uncertain my health is at the moment, this opportunity could be "a means to an end"… an end that's been delayed, again & again…

Performed what I am fairly sure was the final SM concert ever, in Mexico City, Mexico… great venue…an 18 to 20 thousand capacity sports arena… Unfortunately, Stryper cancelled, less than 48 hours before the performance, causing a kind of devastation for the overall success of the event…in the end,

less than 10 thousand people attended the concert, making the massive arena look fairly empty… still, one of the largest audiences we've ever performed to and an interesting experience… too bad our performance was so mediocre… Super nice people, but very poor stage monitoring and complete disregard of my meticulously scripted lighting design, made for a frustrating experience!

<u>Dec, 2004</u> - Home for the holidays, a few more doctor's appointments and my looming "throat scope" on December 27th… can't wait… should be loads of fun! ;) Trying to keep a sense of humor about all of this, but I am a little concerned… why would they want to do this if they weren't concerned that it might be something fairly serious? Plus, the procedure is so expensive and my insurance will only cover part of the cost… the idea of paying someone to do this to me is completely ludicrous, not to mention, extremely sadistic…

Thanksgiving, Birthday and Christmas… very pleasant this year… enjoyed a great deal of focused time with my girls… relaxing… the break from work has been effective in clearing my head of all SM related things… III:II most of all… haven't thought about it much at all, over the past few weeks… just simple, domestic living…simple pleasures… :) my wife, my children, family and friends… feel a greater closeness and connection to all things… far less alienation and overall anxiety… I actually feel Spiritually connected for the first time in a long time…know that I am truly Blessed and so very thankful for the tremendous joy in my life… stomach medication is relieving a great deal of pain and it even seems to be helping with my sleep…no scary choking episodes lately… just thankful to be feeling well… haven't for a long time…

Mainly for my girl's sake, I'm trying not to make a big deal out of any of this at all… if anything, Cyndi and I are greatly "underplaying" it…my kids are smart and they know how often daddy's been at the doctor's lately… there's no way I can completely "blanket" the situation, but I can keep it fairly low key… assure them that there's nothing serious to worry about… nothing at all, just some tests to be safe… just standard procedures… stuff that all men my age, have to do… I must be convincing, because the girls are fine… wish I had someone assuring and convincing me… fact is, I have to wait 3 weeks

for my complete endoscope and biopsy results to come back…it's likely going to drive me nuts, waiting…not knowing… Praying for patience/strength…

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<u>Jan - June, 2005</u> - Test results and biopsy have confirmed a "pre" cancerous condition called "Barrett's Esophagus"… as I understand it, the cells in the lower part of my esophagus have changed abnormally… damaged from years of chronic acid exposure… Doc says the lining of my stomach is creeping up into the esophagus, to "protect" it… also said there is severe deterioration of my esophageal walls… guess I have an elevated risk of developing something called, "high grade dysplasia" which has to do with some kind of really bad tissue change… I don't really understand all the specifics, but I guess it means my risk for esophageal cancer is very high… something awesome to look forward to! ;) The diagnosis is that throat cancer is very likely in my future, probably only a matter of when? What the hell? So, what's the bad news, doc? ;) It is highly recommended that I make some "extreme" lifestyle changes to prolong the inevitable… I must radically reduce the amount of stress in my life, as nerves are the primary catalyst in triggering the acid to erupt into my throat… thus, the term, "nervous stomach," I assume? I had thought my heartburn was triggered by spicy food? Found out that cutting out all spicy foods will help, but that nerves and poor sleep are far greater contributors to the reflux… interesting… that explains a great deal for me…

Trying very hard to make the changes I've been told to make… I've adjusted my work schedule, radically modified my diet and even "forced" myself to sleep at least 6 hours, every morning… it's difficult… obsessive work habits, poor eating habits and very bad sleep habits have been such a part of my life for so long, it's almost like a military re training to change these things…

Reality, mortality, anxiety and depression are setting in… I feel myself on the verge of some sort of "breakdown"…experiencing strange instances of a

type of morbid empathy and macabre fascination… seem to be in a constant state of melancholy and despair… loneliness, bitterness, apathy and even the occasional moments of a kind of "borderline, murderous rage!" This fucking health diagnosis is a real blow to my ability to play "megalomaniac" or even worse, my ability to feed the "narcissistic deity complex" I have learned to embrace, when it's needed, ;) almost "exclusively," for creative purposes…

What good am I to my wife and children, if I'm sick… or dead? What good am I to the project, if I can't allow myself to be completely engaged with it, for fear of slipping back into obsessive work & poor sleep habits? Obviously, there's no way around this thing… it is, what it is, and I have to find a way to manage it, somehow, while continuing to be a great Father and a working artist… I'm stuck on this one…I can't figure it out… Praying hard about it!

As painful and as complicated as it may be, I've realized that behind only the self inflicted pressures I've imposed upon myself, regarding the completion of Legend III:II, the second greatest stress in my life, is likely connected to a highly sensitive, volatile and dysfunctional relationship with my partners in Germany… "Real" communication is probably the greatest contributor to why I am so disengaged with our ever deteriorating relationship… as a man who believes honest communication is essential in any relationship, the lack of openness contributes to an overwhelming sense of dread I'm paralyzed by, each and every time I have to communicate with them, about any SM related matters… I've tried to confront them with many of my concerns, but each time I have, they become slightly offended or moderately defensive…it seems that the only time I don't feel an abundance of stress in communicating with them, is during the rare, more "personal" communication we have… a kind of "friendship" which always seemed to exist "before," and in addition to the business relationship… unfortunately, possibly…inevitably, it has become buried beneath the business relationship over time… I suppose it was bound to happen… I've been Praying about this situation for several months, but it's becoming obvious that things aren't getting better… if anything, they're getting worse… despite the unneeded stress, I'd like to give it one more year to see if anything changes… maybe God will reveal His will, before then?

I received a very sad e-mail this evening… granted, I receive sad / disturbing e-mails, all the time, but this one was particularly sad… Peter Komanje, a long devoted, SM fan in Holland, informed me that he has a very aggressive form of colon cancer…he begins chemotherapy next week… it just breaks my heart… he is only 26 years old… it's tragic! Peter and I have shared quite a bit of correspondence, over the years…he's got to be one of THE greatest SM collectors in the world… he has things so rare, I don't even have them! ;) It seems so narcissistic to, in any way, "connect" Peter's situation to mine, but it's difficult for me not to… maybe it's a normal, human reaction, after being given such a recent cancer warning, myself? I don't know, but I do know the timing is profound… this e-mail would have hit me hard anyway, but right now, it's hitting me like a ton of bricks! I have asked Peter to keep me very informed from here on… I've given him my phone number and told him he can call me at ANY time… if he needs anything, I will do everything I can… until then, I can Pray for him… I am and I will continue to do so…

Aaron and Chelle have suffered another terrible loss… five months into their second pregnancy, in just over 2 years, they are again, faced with the painful and horrifying reality of a miscarriage…this time, she was carrying twins… Once again, my heart just breaks for them… If losing three babies in 2 years wasn't enough, Chelle was diagnosed with a brain tumor, last year…Why is it that such good people have to endure such tragedy? Why does it always seem that the most faithful, devoted believers, suffer the greatest challenges? I know that God's "Will" is infinitely beyond our mortal capabilities to ever begin to comprehend, but our nature cannot help itself, in questioning why?

April 9th / Cyndi's Father, Jay, who has been in very poor health, for many years, died this morning, in Kansas… He was only 69 years old… Jay was an interesting guy… deeply sensitive, loving and intelligent… over the past 21 years, I got to know him about as closely as anyone could… he was very difficult to get close to…Since he and Cyndi's Mother divorced in 1979, Jay never really stayed in one place, for too long… he became a bit of a "drifter" and was tough to keep track of… nearly impossible to stay in contact with…

I don't think he ever forgave himself for losing his family… he never really recovered, and he was incapable of finding the will, necessary, to make a new life for himself, after the divorce… everyone could see the permanent stain of remorse in his eyes and the painful scars of regret, he carried with him, on his ever wandering path… In a way, he was the epitome of "a lost soul"…a man drifting alone, in oblivion… a man who died alone, of a broken heart…

I feel like I'm COMPLETELY SURROUNDED BY DEATH!!! It seems to be reminding me of itself, constantly! It's always on my mind, lately… just since January, there's CANCER everywhere… in varying degrees! I've had the warning, Peter is trying to fight it, and Jay just died from it! What the hell? 2005 is starting off with a bang… this year completely sucks, so far! : (Is someone trying to tell me something? It sure would seem like a logical deduction, at the moment… maybe I'm just being overly analytical as usual, but it sure seems like a little more than just a series of peculiar coincidences?

For the first time since Dean left SM, just over 10 years ago, Dean and I are in frequent correspondence… it's nice, and it's really reminding me of just how much I always loved the guy… from 1989 to 1994, Dean was one of my best friends in the world… we were pretty much inseparable during that 5 year period… Dean, Jeff and I, virtually launched SM together… we wrote over 30 songs together, performed 100's of gigs together…we walked, talked, ate, drank, slept, dreamt, LIVED SM, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! No joke…our lives were completely "linked" together and to IT! When Dean left SM in 1995, it truly broke my heart… it was far more painful than any break up with any girlfriend, I ever had as a young teenager… that sounded kinda gay, but I'm serious! ;) I truly loved this guy…almost like a brother! In retrospect, I guess we had an extremely intense, 5 year "bromance!" ;)

Last December, shortly before Christmas, our families spent the day together at "The Happiest Place on Earth" and we all had a blast! Our kids are very close in age and they got along great… they genuinely enjoyed each other's company and even conspired on a June trip to Seattle, which I'm currently coordinating with Dean and his wife, Amy…looks like we're headed up there

in a few weeks, to visit them… though my kids have traveled throughout the U.S, through much of Europe, to Greece and recently, to Mexico City, this will be the first actual "family vacation" we've ever had together… it should be a nice experience for all of us, to be "on vacation," instead of "traveling with Daddy, while he's playing rock star!" I'm really looking forward to it!

It's been just over 12 years since Cyndi's near fatal car accident in June of 1993… she's gone through hundreds of treatments and she's had dozens and dozens of procedures, in attempts to somehow alleviate the chronic pain from severe spinal injuries…after so many failed, minor treatments & procedures, a major spinal surgery has finally been approved by our insurance…surgery will take place this morning… it's a complicated disc replacement procedure which, if successful, requires 4 months, complete recovery time… if surgery alleviates the lower back pain, she will likely be scheduled for a surgery on her neck, sometime next year… I've been in Prayer for the greater part of the night… been a bit of an emotional ride and it felt like I should write some of my thoughts and feelings down, while in this state… vivid and clear…

After 22 years together and as of next month, 19 years of Marriage, I can still honestly say that my wife IS the love of my life… she's stubborn, absent minded, forgetful, occasionally inconsiderate, temperamental, unorganized, clumsy, illogical and completely irrational, at times… she can frustrate me like no other and she's the only person I've ever known, who is truly capable of driving me NUTS! This, in itself, speaks volumes of her power… she is a powerful woman… No man has ever possessed her capabilities… I am not an easy person to frustrate… my wife has a gift… I am in awe of this gift! ;) In addition to this unique gift, she does of course, have others… gifts that I am so very Blessed to be privileged to, on a daily basis… she embraces the gift of Motherhood and from the moment she became a Mother, she has been wonderful at it! God knows, I couldn't have been Blessed with a more loving Mother, for my children… she loves them consistently and unconditionally! She greatly possesses the gift of humor… I can say, without a doubt, she is the funniest woman I've ever known… I believe it is this impeccable sense of humor which I found so attractive, when we first met… I fell in love with it

and soon after, fell in love with her… she is brutally sarcastic, bright, clever and witty as hell…her comedic timing is unmatched by anyone I've ever had the pleasure to know, (with the exception of Brian Healy :) and she's never at a loss for a few hilarious comments, even in the darkest moments… on the afternoon of her car accident, while lying, strapped at her forehead to the gurney, in the emergency room, at the Hospital, she still found a way to be funny… I'd just arrived at the Hospital, spent a few moments talking with the Paramedics who described to me, in detail, the severity of the accident… They explained to me how my wife was "a lucky lady" to be alive… that she should be dead… the accident should have broken her neck and it's a kind of "Miracle" she's not at least, paralyzed… thanks for the pep talk, guys! ;) I walk in to her room, she's surrounded by Doctors and Nurses, half in shock and in excruciating pain… she sees me and before I can say a word, she says: "Do I look sexy, or what?" My tears of trauma, instantly turned to tears of laughter and relief, knowing somehow, she was alright… her humor in tact!

It takes a very particular kind of woman to endure the path I've chosen, not to mention, the guts, devotion and loyalty she's shown during the times of great distress… on top of it all, she's endured all that I have, while suffering through chronic, physical pain, for the past 12 years… her chronic pain is an affliction which has affected her life, and our lives together… and how could it not? It has been debilitating, inconvenient and intrusive, at times… it has affected our ability to communicate with each other, our ability to share, our ability to consummate and our ability to truly enjoy each other in the limited time, we sometimes have together… I Pray that this surgery will be the first step towards bridging some of these gaps in our Marriage… I Pray for the patience and understanding I will truly need, during her lengthy recovery… I Pray for my children… that they will not be emotionally or psychologically scarred by the experience of seeing their Mother so incapacitated, for such a long period of time…I Pray for my Wife, Cyndi… that she will find strength and comfort in our Lord, Jesus Christ… He who heals all wounds… Amen!

Spent all morning at the Hospital, was just here, 10 days ago with Peter… The Doctor told me the surgery was successful, but Cyndi will be confined to a back brace and on complete bed rest for the next 6 weeks… though she's been in varying degrees of pain ever since the accident in 1993, I should be prepared to care for her, 24 hours a day, for at least, the first few days, after she's released from the Hospital, in a week… I'm prepared and I'll do it well! For now, there's nothing I can do here… she's in recovery for the next seven hours…they won't even let me see her until then…I'll go home and get some rest… could use it… been up since yesterday afternoon… I'm pretty tired…

Brought Cyndi home from the Hospital today… she says she's doing ok, but I know she's just putting on a good face for the kids…I know that look in her eyes and I haven't seen it, quite like this, in a long time… she's in pain…

I haven't seen Cyndi in this state of incapacitation since the accident… it's a very painful thing to see… she's in SO much pain… it's frustrating as well, because I feel powerless to help her…I'm only able to help like a nurse would help… do what I can to help make her comfortable… feed her, help her to the bathroom, etc… just getting her out of bed is quite a process…it's delicate…

I am "a domestic god!" I am fulfilling both fatherly and motherly obligations in the household… I'm an awesome, full time nurse and a pretty good house keeper, if I may say so, myself… this job simply requires commitment, focus and "militant organization!" Nothing new to me…it's how I've always done everything! ;) My poor daughters… they probably feel like they're in some kind of "Daddy boot camp" right now… we've got a precise schedule and a particular method for everything…they've never had so many chores around the house, but it's good for them… I'm proud of them… they're doing a fine job and they've been very helpful… I am beginning to suspect that my Wife is enjoying this, somehow? With each passing day, she gains some strength and the pain becomes more manageable… I think she's finding some sick and twisted pleasure in my "heightened domestic duties!" ;) All these years, my Wife has been a kind of "freak" among her species… she is, without a doubt, the most low maintenance female, I've ever known… Cyndi is extremely low

maintenance; (by feminine standards, grading on a curve ;) she's confident, emotionally stable, strong minded and independent… she's far from "needy" and she's never been the "clingy" type… thank God…He knew what he was doing when he brought us together… I do think she's enjoying being waited on, hand and foot… it's ok, she's earned it and she deserves it… I just hope she doesn't get too used to it… I do have to get back to work, eventually! ;)

Living with, and being in love with someone in chronic pain, has been very difficult, at times… it can be "emotionally taxing" and it can take its toll on the psyche as well… sometimes, a slight detachment from emotion has been necessary in order to get any other work accomplished… I have felt guilty at times for this apparent "apathy" towards her suffering, but it is not apathy, it's self preservation or survival, if anything… it's been over 12 years since her accident… 12 years of pain… what good am I as a husband or as a father if I'm in a state of constant worry or perpetual sympathy, to the point of distraction? I've found that I'm far more effective as both husband and father when slightly removed or emotionally detached… a diversion can be helpful! At the moment, "Rarities / Revelations" has become my diversion… for the next few months, during Cyndi's recovery, I'll focus my energies on this…

With Adam's assistance and Peter's inspiration, I'm hunting for, collecting and listening to dozens of hours of rare and bootleg recordings… I'm slowly making my selections, transferring them into digital format and mastering all of the recordings… some have been easy to work with, some, not so easy at all… the entire process has been retrospective, nostalgic and cathartic… It couldn't come at a better time…it's been an opportunity for me to work on something SM related, without stress or anxiety… it's been the "healthiest" SM working experience I've had in a long time…I'm thankful, it's been fun!

I have made a conscious decision to release "R/R" completely independently, without partnership with MCM… I really have no choice… it's something I must do…During the short time Peter was here in CA, we spoke intimately, about a number of things; God, life, death, family, history, music, film, etc…

One evening, shortly after dinner, he asked me about my relationship with my partners in Germany, future plans together as a company, etc… sadly, I realized that there may not be much of a future, together… in opening up to Peter, about my history with MCM, and actually "hearing" myself talking about the relationship, some problems, issues, etc…, it became clear that the time for change was drawing very near… Peter only reaffirmed my feelings when he gently asked: "Why are you still with them?" He also said to me, in a very polite manner: "Please excuse me… it's not my business to say… you have a nice, small house, simple cars and normal living here, but I thought you would be living in much more luxury than this, with the SM success?" After I stopped laughing, hysterically, I shattered his delusions about money and "success" in the music industry! ;) Peter simply said: "Why don't you make this rare bootlegs release, on your own, for your family?" "If MCM doesn't support you, in doing it for your family, you will know they are not really your friends!" Profound words from a young, dying man, I barely got the chance to know, before he was gone… He asked me to promise him that I would do it… He said: "You have to promise it to me… I'm dying!" I said: "Hey man… listening to Legend III:II… I already fulfilled your dying wish, remember?" ;) He asked me for "one" more promise… of course, I agreed…

I will fulfill a promise to Peter… I'll attempt to bring in some much needed income for my family… I'll give some die hard SM fans, a very unique and special collection of music, and I will likely provoke a reaction from MCM… How they handle this, will determine how and when I choose to tell them of my decision to leave them… If they're supportive of my independent release, I'll actually consider sticking it out with them, for another year, if only just to complete III:II and fulfill a type of "destiny" together… IF they react with greed or contempt and make aggressive attempts to "get a piece of the pie," I will have no other choice, but to "drop the bomb" just as soon as possible…

The pre sales have begun for "Rarities / Revelations" and there seems to be a phenomenal interest from the fans… It is wonderful… we are only pressing exactly 500 sets of this unique collection… they are virtually "flying off the

shelves!" At this rate, they'll all be sold out, before I can even have the damn thing mastered! ;) I guess 500 copies wasn't enough? It's cool, I don't mind at all… I'd rather this project be even more rare to own, than to make a few extra bucks and kind of, "cheapen" its longevity and its long term value…

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<u>Feb, 2006</u> - This morning, after a week of careful thought regarding whether I should make a phone call, write a letter, or send an email, I chose an email:

"Dear Rainer, Matthias and Arlene… Though I am finally feeling better physically, I write to you with a very heavy heart…After much deliberation, patience and Prayer, It is time for me to share with you a heavy burden, which I have been carrying for a great deal of time… I'm sure that many of the circumstances surrounding my life over the past several years, combined with the health diagnosis I received a year ago, have greatly contributed to my current state of mind, but that being known, I believe that what I am about to say, is well thought out, honest and sincere… I love you all very much… you are 3 of my dearest friends in the world, but it is now time for us to end our business relationship together as "partners," managers and artist, etc…I have come to very conclusive terms in my decision… My hope is that we can find a fair and definitive resolution in all pending business matters and continue to remain close friends for the rest of our lives… Rainer: In regards to the points, proposals and questions in your previous email, I can respond to each individually, if you still want me to do so, however, I don't believe it will lead us anywhere positive… I believe it will most likely lead to "bad" places, negative feelings, "finger pointing," etc… I'd like to avoid this if possible! I have figured that the 3 of you may need some time to discuss exactly what you would like to do at this point… how you would like to proceed towards resolution and whether or not you would like to offer me a proposal to consider…I do have a clear and concise proposal to offer you, any time you would like to read it… I'm sure that this is only the first email in a series to follow… as you all know, negotiating "out of" a

business relationship, can be more complicated than negotiating into one… I felt it was important to start the process now…My love to you all…TCGB!"

Maybe, I chose to send an email, to avoid a potentially eruptive and likely, very emotional phone call? Maybe an actual, hand written letter would have been more appropriate, but it would have likely been more "emotional" than it needed to be… it's been emotional for me, far too long, already… I'm sure I would have ended our "partnership" years ago, if I didn't care so much about them… if I didn't genuinely love them and love their families… hell, in many ways, these people ARE like extended family to me… dysfunctional as it may be, at times, family is family… you find a way to love them, even if they drive you crazy, sometimes! ;) Simply ending the business part of the relationship and keeping the friendship part of it, would be great, however, I'm concerned they may be too "linked together," too intertwined… I don't quite know what to expect, as far as their reaction? I would think it may be a sense of relief! ;) Unfortunately, if our history together is any indication of of where things are headed, the friendships could be damaged, irreparably…

March - May, 2006 - The departure with MCM is becoming increasingly bad… I believe their "strategy" is to resolve nothing… these "negotiations" are nothing of the sort…it's as if they're just throwing random shit my way, in some sort of feeble attempt to divert my attention… a slew of grandiose ultimatums, unattainable goals, preposterous demands, unreasonable ideas and insidious concepts… their "tactics" are becoming ludicrous… quickly… Is all of this insanity, just some extreme attempt to change my decision? To change my heart and my mind? Is it possible that they actually believe this approach is going to be an effective course, towards resolution? Do they really believe I'm just going to get overwhelmed by their bullshit, say it's too much trouble, and change my decision? I'm quickly beginning to believe this is all headed absolutely no where, fast…How can I possibly "negotiate" with people who won't even address a simple question or concept? I've proposed options and received no response… not even any feedback… it is as if they're not even reading my emails… it's like trying to communicate with someone who's watching television… you're trying to tell them something important,

but they're not "really" listening… when they do actually say something, it is completely NON related to what you "thought" was the conversation… HUGE communication issues in our relationship, over the years, but this is absurd! It is as if we are separated, not only by language, but by species!

Thought I'd taken the first step towards removing one of the greater stresses in my life… maybe I have, but at the moment, it appears I've added a great deal more… It's a like a "shit storm" of reactionary stress, spewing from the mouth of some "infallible, arrogant, mythical, German bullshit god," who when provoked, sends his mighty wrath of "holy defecation" from the sky! ;) I'm up to my ears in it! Petty misdirection tactics… it's tiresome… if this is how they treat their "friends," I'd hate to see how they treat their enemies?

My cousin Debora died today (April 1st) it's so sad, she was only a few years older than I am… She died during complications in surgery… just another example of medical incompetence, to fuel my growing disdain and paranoia! Debbie was one of my closest cousins, and though I saw her less often than my other cousins, due to the geographical distance between us, I always felt an intimate, Spiritual and intellectual bond with her… she was so full of life, so sweet, so kind, so loving… the world was a brighter place, with her in it!

Rozz Williams committed suicide, 8 years ago, today… I'm reluctant to say we were "friends," because we never spent enough time together, to become friends… I knew him, we had some interesting conversations, over the years, but I never had the opportunity to know him well… What I can say, is that I always found him to be very polite, intelligent, kind and unassuming… In thinking about today's date, I've realized, just how long it's been since I had any contact with Eva… we've somehow lost touch… I Pray she is well!

Matthias is handling all "negotiations" with me… Rainer, who I was much closer to, Spiritually and emotionally, has been completely silent, since my "departure" email… I think I understand why he is staying out of this and I respect his decision to do so…I truly wish I could do the same and have some completely detached, unemotional prick, handle my side of the negotiations!

Like Rainer, I'm not really cut out for this sort of thing either… I am far too sensitive and kind natured, to be the "asshole" I'll have to be, if this debacle continues to escalate… Matthias never struck me as that type of "vengeful" person either, but I'm seeing a side of him that is so petty, so vile, so ugly!

These bullshit misdirection games are tedious… so uncreative and generic… Blatant attempts to engage an opponent, in distraction… enticing an enemy to fight a pointless and destructive battle, far removed from the actual front lines of the "war," itself… It's as if he's some strategic novice, brushing up on Sun Tzu's, "The Art of War" and after chapter 1, thinks he's got a lock on it! ;) The irony is that I don't consider him my enemy, and I really don't consider this a "war," but it's becoming painfully clear, he wishes to engage me in a war… either he just lives for this kind of shit, and loves to battle, or he's simply attempting to buy himself some time? Maybe both? Either way, it's a waste of my time and it's boring me… If he wants to fight, I suppose we can, but not because I actually "want" to fight, only because I'm bored and near my wit's end, with the current course of direction… my "enemy" can proudly claim "victory"… he has succeeded in his mission and pushed me to the point of confrontation… I'd truly hoped we could avoid this…

I truly Pray this doesn't have to go any further than it already has…besides, the idea of making attorneys even wealthier than they already are, disgusts me! If this is what MCM wants, then they will have it, no matter how vile and repulsive I find the concept… If they are as intelligent and as rational as I believe they are capable of being, they will soon realize, it is not worth it…

Apathy and indifference are becoming stronger than any desire to "prove" I am right and they are wrong… All I ever wanted from the very beginning of all of this, was a simple, "civil" parting of ways… I suppose I should have known it wouldn't be… Despite my overall sense of pragmatism, I have the tendency to expect the best in people… I hope that never changes, no matter what… even if it continues to put me in situations I can be taken advantage of… I'd prefer to look for the best in people and experience disappointment when they reveal their worst, than always expect the worst and be pleasantly

surprised when they actually do the right thing… Some forms of apathy are a necessity, for people like me… without it, I'd be consumed in a continual state of "hyper empathy!" Some believe that all forms of apathy are a sin… a "spiritual affliction"…I do not! Some forms may be, but if a kind of apathy is required to prevent someone from hurting another, how can it be sinful? I'll have to walk away from all of this… I'll detach from it and simply forget they ever existed… I don't want to fight anymore… I never intended for any of this to become a "fight"…I thought, or at least, "hoped" that my former partners were more "dignified" than they have shown to be… more mature, more intelligent… I feel that if I don't walk away from these "negotiations" now, any further discussion, will only lead to mutually assured destruction! I don't want to hurt anyone…there's been more than enough pain already…

<u>July - Oct, 2006</u> - Cyndi is having her second major spinal surgery in just less than a year… her lower back surgery, last August, has been moderately successful in alleviating some of her back pain… this morning's procedure is for her neck, where the greatest damage from the accident occurred…Cyndi's neck problems have attributed to brutal migraines, temporary paralysis, lack of mobility and horrifying discomfort, at times… the past 13 years have been a literal, "pain in the neck," for her… God willing, this surgery will help her in some small capacity… This procedure requires a 2 inch, diagonal incision through the front of her neck…it's called a "2 level disc fusion" and requires the trachea and esophagus to be "moved aside," during the surgery… we've been informed it will be a more painful procedure, but should likely require less recovery time, than the previous back surgery…Cyndi seems to be much more "anxious" about this surgery, than she was with the back procedure… I can only imagine how nervous she must be… just listening to the surgeon describe it, is "chilling"…I'm not the one having surgery and it's giving me the creeps! I know she's scared, but like always, she appears nonchalant…

Sept 14th / Cyndi and I had a lovely evening together, celebrating our 20th Wedding anniversary tonight… it was as "romantic" as it possibly could be, considering, she could barely swallow the fine cuisine and she was wearing a neck brace the entire evening… As always, we made the best of it, enjoying

each other's company, marveling in the fact that it's been 20 years, thanking God for our Blessings and having a few laughs; most of which, were directly related to the "twisted" irony and absurdity of sharing a fine, decadent meal together, celebrating such a "landmark" in our Marriage, while Cyndi tried not to choke to death! ;) After everything we've been through together, it somehow, just seemed "par for the course"…our mutually dark, senses of humor, couldn't resist every opportunity to embrace the "sick jokes" which kept presenting themselves… eventually, we had to stop being so "playful" and funny about the situation, because it hurt Cyndi when she'd laugh! ;)

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March 8th / 2 am… My Grandmother, "Grammy" passed away, a few hours ago… I've been spending time with her, each of the past three nights, she has been in the hospital… I just left her a little less than two hours ago… I knew somehow, when I left the hospital, it would be the last time I'd ever see her… My Grammy was an amazing lady… she was a far more "Spiritual" person, a more devout Believer, than even many people close to her, ever realized… She was never "loud" with her Faith…always "quiet" about it…In my final moments with her, without a word, she quietly let me know she was ready…

I guess I've spent close to 900 hrs, working on Legend III:II, since January… I'm mainly, fine tuning arrangements and editing… always editing… about ten hours a night, at least, six nights a week… I've done some recording, but nothing really substantial…I suppose there would have been more recording and better progress overall, if I felt better, but my stomach problems seem to be directly related to the work on THIS project? The pain is becoming worse, more frequent and more difficult to manage… I've been having to make more frequent visits to doctors, lately… more tests… seems like all I ever do… the reflux, the vomiting and greater digestive issues have become more imposing and distracting to my work… I feel as if a great sadness is growing in me…

May, 2007 - My quarterly endoscope results were downright terrifying this morning! The most recent biopsy results are not good at all… there's been a dramatic change in the esophageal tissue… something like "stage 2" of three and this "stage 3" IS cancer! After 16 months of a "stable holding pattern" at "stage 1," the condition has advanced… awesome, "rockin good news!" ;) This time, my doctors are not being very "gentile" about their prognosis and they're being even less "subtle" with their suggestions… they are increasing the dosages of all 3 of my medications, "suggesting" more dramatic lifestyle changes and now insisting I see some "specialists" for a few "evaluations?"

Spent the past few days meeting with a dietician, a psychiatrist and a type of grief or "trauma" therapist… sounds like the set up for a bad joke… "a grief therapist, a psychiatrist and a dietician, walk into a bar…" ;) anyway, all of this is supposed to evaluate my physical, emotional & psychological health… The general "consensus" is this…despite the extreme lifestyle changes I have already made, over the past 16 months, I must radically change more!!!! I'm now told that 6 hours sleep is not adequate… told that my diet, over the past 16 months, is healthy, but not healthy enough… told that I should seriously consider a CAREER CHANGE… told that I am a "workaholic," told that I suffer from severe, anxiety related sleep disorders, low levels of serotonin, an "acute" form of anxiety related depression, hypomania, and a specific type of "post traumatic stress syndrome disorder" which I can't even pronounce! ;)

Anti-depressants and sleep aids are highly recommended, but I refuse to take either… I'm taking enough damn pills already!!! I'd prefer to pursue holistic solutions, if possible… despite thinking these doctors are all "high on crack," one fact I can't refute or ignore, is that I am physically sick and I really don't feel well at all… it seems the deeper I get into the project, the shittier I feel… The more hours I put in, the less I sleep and the more my body suffers… I do notice that I'm burning through a giant bottle of Antacids per week, and it is getting to the point where I'm afraid to eat ANYTHING, within about 4 hrs of beginning work…I just can't keep anything down anymore…even a small burp can turn ugly in seconds… pure bile just comes up into my throat and nostrils in seconds, scalding me… it's brutally painful… I can only seem to

manage a few hours of work, consecutively, before I have to stop… becoming truly fearful and anxious about what I eat and / or drink… even more fearful of working on the project at all… Maybe it's simply the fear of physical pain, but difficult for me to accept… In addition to the physical pain, there MUST actually be some form of anxiety related depression, because for the first time in many years, there is no "major crisis" to prevent me from working, yet working on III:II in any capacity, has become dysfunctional / overwhelming!

What was once almost blissful, has become so physically painful… what was once simple, is now complicated… what was once so easily manageable, has become unmanageable…what was once a passionate and "cathartic," artistic process, has become a dangerously obsessive, anxiety consuming ritual… by definition; Insanity! Question to self: Is it truly "insanity" if it's recognized, accepted and eventually alleviated by the "insane?" Another question: Why the HELL am I talking to myself? In writing, no less! Probably not good? ;)

<u>May 27, 2007</u> - Frightened, depressed, confronted with mortality and even questioning my sanity, I reluctantly typed a short press release last night, announcing that III:II would not be making its release date… I'd probably come to the realization several weeks ago, but now, there's absolutely no way to have it finished by then…I suppose I was in denial…I knew that time was running out, but believed anything was possible, if I just continued to put in the hours…at the pace I was going, I may have realistically been able to start mixing in early July… then again, at the pace I was going, I'd probably be starting chemotherapy in late June… I feel so ashamed… so disappointed in myself… so remorseful, for letting the fans down… I'm sure the news today, isn't a huge shock for the few thousand SM fans who read it, the ones who still actively seek information or care to know…I wish I had some good news for them, more often… I've become such a recluse, over the years, that I can't seem to give interviews anymore…they are painful… plus, it's very difficult to share information with people who care, when there's really nothing nice or positive to share… seems narcissistic, cruel and depressing if anything… What's there to say? What shall I talk about… the past 9 years? God NO! It would be the longest, most depressing interview, ever! Who wants to read

that? I think I've given one, actual interview, in the past 6 years…and from this one interview, my condition of "Barrett's Esophagus" quickly evolved into full blown throat cancer, through the magic of the Internet! I know that some people actually "read" what is written, but sadly, most people don't… It's bad enough that I gave hundreds of interviews, between 1993 and 1998, and was so often, grossly misquoted, but to type the few interviews myself, since, and still be misinterpreted, is just maddening! As much as I deeply appreciate the interest and support of every single journalist, who has ever interviewed me, every radio broadcaster, every television interviewer, rarely did any interviewer propose truly interesting questions…very mundane and generic, most of the time…you can only answer the same questions, so many times, before they begin to bore you… I'm sure my short, press release today, will be insufficient, for some… I'm sure that many loyal SM fans are greatly disappointed and feel like they deserve more details… what else can I say to them? What further explanation can I give? I'm sick, and I've been warned by physicians, to cease and desist, any and all, mentally stressful activities… I'm tired, my body is run down, and I'm in danger of advancing my current condition to the next stage…it has already advanced and progressed towards a further negative prognosis, just in the past 16 months… I'm broken… my mind is crying out, my body is suffering, my heart and Spirit, remorseful…

I hope to get my physical health stabilized as soon as possible… my mental health as well… maybe then, I can return to work with a sense of calling and purpose again? It hasn't truly felt like a calling for many years… more of an obligation, if anything… almost dread or undesired responsibility… HATE feeling this way! It's horrible! I'm angry and frustrated with my inability to work…even more angry at myself for being sick… I should have taken better care of myself… should have listened to my body more closely… should have tried to sleep more often, more hours, more consistently… years of insomnia and obsessive work habits have finally caught up with me… caught up with a VENGEANCE! I feel 20 years older than I am… regret and remorse are consuming me…it really seems as if everything related to SM was some sort of "catch 22"… for every single step forward, a step back… for every artistic achievement, a physical and/or psychological ailment… every album, every

performance, every tour must have devoured parts of me, taken years off my life! I'm feeling an overwhelming sense of bitterness towards the project, the "calling" and what it's done to me over time… more accurately, what I have allowed it to do to me! I feel completely accountable for ALL of this… feels as if this wondrous gift I've been given, this "great calling," has become a type of cancer, in and unto itself… worst of all, I feel an overwhelming sense of shame, for not being able to fulfill my "promise"…my promise to GOD…

The sad realization is that if I had been more health conscious, taken better care of my body, I would have had the strength and endurance to finish the race! Always focused so much energy on Spiritual & psychological health… greatly underestimated the importance of physical health… feel like an idiot! Quite possibly, the most disappointed in myself, I've ever been… without a doubt, the deepest sadness I've felt in years… I am broken at my very core…

<u>June-Aug, 2007</u> - TIME has become, what seems to be my greatest enemy… An even greater enemy than my illness…My relationship to the clock is now becoming less real and more surreal, all the time… an impending oblivion! WHEN is it time? WHAT is time? WHERE has it gone? Minutes explode into hours… hours, into days… days, into months… now, years and years! Where have the years gone? My perspective of time is completely lost… out of focus somehow… My children have become my only real touchstone with time… the only way I can monitor change… Praise GOD for my children… without them, I would have no "ground," no hold on the reality of time, and quite possibly, no grip on the sanity of time… my mind seems adrift in some endless cycle of waiting for something? What in the HELL am I waiting for? An indication of hope? A medical Miracle? Inspiration? A sign? What is it?

I don't really "know" much of anything anymore… things I believed in, so strongly for years, have now given way to an overall sense of pragmatism… All I truly "know" is that I love my children, and I WILL NEVER ALLOW ANYTHING to prevent me from being the Father I need to be… thankfully,

my illness and my current state of mind has not affected them too greatly… Praise God, I am still capable of being unconditionally devoted to them and their ever evolving needs… even when I feel the need to be completely alone, I still want to be with them…when I'm incapable of being around any living soul, they, and they alone, can still draw me to their Spirits… when I have nothing left to give, I can still give to them, everything decent, that I am… I can still be nurturing, somehow, even when apathy prevails in every other aspect of my life… I can still offer them wisdom, strength & encouragement, even when I feel unwise, unhealthy and unoptimistic… I can still give them the consistency of temperament they deserve and require, even when I know I am temperamental and inconsistent, in behavioral patterns, outside of Fatherhood… Somehow, whether it be, by the Grace of God, or some sheer "instinctive will," I am still able to be their Father…I am still VERY good at it, and I am proud to say that it is what I do BEST! When all other aspects of my creativity and my abilities are paralyzed, I am still able to be a creative Father… when all else fails and feeds dysfunction, Fatherhood PREVAILS and always succeeds in providing me a highly functional aspect of my life, to feel "good" about… Despite the physical chaos, the psychological frailty and the Spiritual uncertainty I may experience, at times… I am always confident in my capabilities, as a Father… my daughters adore me, and I them… they are truly WONDERFUL children… beautiful, bright, intelligent, hilarious little creatures…full of Faith, hope, love, joy and happiness… in many ways, they have taught me as much as I have taught them… I am infinitely proud of them and of the mature, young ladies, they are becoming… so talented, so confident, so well adjusted… I "know" they will go on to do great things…

I may not "know" exactly how or when III:II will ever be completed, but I do "know" that I wouldn't exchange a single MOMENT in the past 12 years, raising my daughters, to have the project complete, today… they are exactly who they are, because of every moment shared… Contrary to popular belief that Legend is my "Magnum Opus," my daughters are my greatest, creative work…my most brilliant, harmonious exercise… my TRUE Masterpiece! :)

In my current state of mind; what would likely be diagnosed as some severe type of depression, Cyndi just had her third, major, spinal surgery… it was another 2 level disc fusion procedure… this time, they entered from the back side of her neck…it was a 4 inch vertical incision, that will leave her with an "aesthetically unsettling" and considerable scar, for the rest of her life… like any woman would be, she's a bit self conscious about the scar and concerned that she'll never be able to wear her hair short again… just like a female, to be in excruciating pain and more concerned about her future hair options! ;) No matter how strong I've been for her and my daughters, through the past two recovery periods, I am afraid that this time, I am utterly and completely unprepared to face the responsibility of both, full time father and mother, for the next few months… with all we've been through, over the past few years, it doesn't make any sense to me, why I am feeling so anxious and concerned about handling "this time through the mill?" I feel so insecure, so unstable, so confused, so unfocussed, so unmotivated… I just don't feel ready for this!

Thankfully, Cyndi's recovery is coming along a bit smoother this time, than the previous two procedures… Praise GOD, because I'm really not sure my body or my mind can handle much more stress at the moment? I feel like I'm just hanging on by a thread! When the stress escalates, my symptoms begin to escalate… they emerge quickly these days and in greater severity… I have vomited bile, mixed with some blood, three times in the past week… it scares me, because it happens with very little warning… I'm trying so hard, not to worry too much about Cyndi, but how can I not, when I know she's in such pain and I see it every day? My mind is constantly racing and filled with an almost debilitating "hyper consciousness," at all times…I'm "internalizing" everything… I'm "worrying" about WAY too many things that are beyond control, while trying to project the constant appearance of strength, stability and security for my family… It is a state of mental and emotional confusion! Prayer is my only defense… my only solace… it is FAITH which sustains me and keeps me holding on… even beyond the love of my family, the only thing that is REAL… the only thing I "know"…I am Praying for a "great awakening"…Some clarity of purpose… a MIRACLE… a new beginning… All of this seems to be leading me "in circles"…around and around, again?

Spent the entire night doing some VERY rough mixes of small portions from the "elusive mystery album"…"Revealed" short samples of Legend III:II on the Net today… I suppose, it's my little way of saying I'm sorry to the fans for not making the ONE deadline I ever, actually promised, and to give them just a small "glimmer" of hope that it WILL actually be finished, someday… Anyway… I hope the fans enjoy the little samples… I Pray they understand they are EXTREMELY "rough"…nothing to get too "attached to"…not an actual "barometer" to "gage" anything by…more of an overall impression…

<u>Sept, 2007</u> - My brother, Jeff, whom I love profoundly, telephoned me this evening…an extremely rare occurrence, these days… he and I really haven't spoken much for years… I've seen him mainly, at extended family functions, a few Weddings, births, birthdays, etc…, but those particular occasions have basically been the extent of our time, together… It has become increasingly difficult for me to spend much additional time with him, due to the fact that we are both so reclusive, such "hermits"…between my anxiety related issues and his alcoholism, spending "quality time" together has been impossible… I was really kind of shocked when he called… It was very late in the evening for him to be calling me, considering how early he gets up for work… it's Tuesday night at 11:00… he's usually asleep and I'm just starting my work night…I could tell immediately, just by the tone in his voice, that something very serious was up… he sounded SO exhausted, so depressed, so broken… He also sounded sober, which only added to my initial shock of the call, itself and made it all the more "puzzling" to me…It's always been difficult for Jeff to articulate, "exactly" what he wants to say, in verbal communication… he could always communicate his thoughts and emotions, very clearly, through music and other forms of art, but "getting the words out," has been tough for him, at times… Because I am his closest brother, and I have always had somewhat of "a gift" for verbal communication, I've always felt like I could understand "where he was coming from," better than most… maybe, better than anyone? What I understood, from our brief, but intensely, open talk tonight, is that simultaneously… something truly terrifying and wonderful, has happened, within my brother, Jeff… It is something that I have Prayed for, with tremendous patience, dedication and diligence, for over a decade…

After ten years of alcoholism, (an affliction that devastated our relationship, crippled our ability to work together and greatly contributed to his departure from SM)… Jeff is truly ready to stop drinking… Despite not feeling in any condition to help anyone, I'm ready to help in whatever capacity I am able… By the Grace of God, I survived several years of drug and alcohol abuse, in the mid to late 1980's… I've been "called upon" by God, a number of times in my nearly 20 years of sobriety, to support, council and to help rehabilitate very close friends and family members…never has it been someone SO close! I've always felt very confident when called upon, but in this case, so broken myself, I am uncertain of my capabilities… my brother needs me… he needs the very best of me! He needs the "pillar of strength" I am capable of being! Jeff deserves the greatest security and stability I can possibly muster… with GOD, ALMIGHTY carrying me, in my weakened, nearly "crippled" and paralyzed condition, I will find the strength to help carry my dear brother…

Jeff is in a place of deep brokenness and insecurity… it is a place I remember very well from 20 years earlier and I have very recently become familiar with again… I am continuously amazed by God's Grace, sovereignty and timing! I realize how perfect the design… how profound the moment and how simply beautiful the location… Jeff and I, our paths, so distant, for so many years, so vastly apart, so seemingly growing further and further apart, have met at PRECISELY the right time….GOD'S TIME… I am in AWE of HIS Grace!

Sept 4th / Jeff has come to stay here, with my family and I, for as much time as he needs… I Pray my home will provide a kind of "Sanctuary" for him, as it has for many others, over the years… I Pray I will have the right "words," the proper "insight"…I Pray for the ability to truly listen to what his mind is suffering from, to openly hear what his heart cries out for, and to honestly "see" where the Spirit guides me… In order to lead, I must simply follow…

Jeff and I are spending a great deal of time together… we've spent more time with each other in the past few weeks, than we have, over the past ten years combined… it is a profound and powerful time shared… completely relaxed, open, honest and hopeful…Jeff is making the single fastest progress I've ever

seen in alcohol recovery…it's mind blowing and it's real…each day, he takes giant leaps forward…a psychological and emotional healing is transpiring at an almost "alarming pace!" A true, Spiritual awakening ruminates in every ounce of his being… I am in awe, once again…I am witness to a MIRACLE!

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<u>2008</u> - Jeff and I continue to grow closer… it's wonderful…our relationship feels truly "real" for the first time… we're enjoying each other's company in the most simple ways… just hanging out, watching ballgames, going to the movies, family dinners, birthday gatherings… TONS of laughs…it's great! Seems as if we're actually finding time for each other… maybe, for the first time, and it's so effortless… so natural… it's kind of strange, after so many years of never really spending any time together, we're together all the time now… I see him at least once or twice a week now, and I begin to miss him when I haven't seen him in a few days… soon, I may actually get to see him even more often, if he and Melissa are able to buy a home, here in GT…that would be really cool for both our families to be living so close… great for the kids…a safer area… better schools… nicer community… I Pray it happens!

Still not able to work effectively on the III:II material and it frustrates me to no end… I continue to "try" and work on it, but the results are always the same, time and again… a predictable sequence of physical and psychological symptoms…; anxiety, shortness of breath, headache, heartburn, obnoxiously painful belching and eventually nausea… once it gets to that point, it's over and I have to stop… sometimes it takes a few hours, sometimes it takes a few minutes… how long it takes to happen, seems to vary, depending on what I'm working on, what I've eaten that day, how much sleep I've had, etc… Wish I could pinpoint exactly when it's going to happen and establish some sort of "method" for working around it…if I only knew that I could work for exactly 1 hour and 37 minutes, before starting to feel bad, I'd work exactly that duration of time every night and then stop… I think it's the FEAR of it happening at any time, that has become so debilitating… once it starts, it's

too late and it takes hours to calm myself down… I can always get a hold on the mental part of it fairly quickly, but the physical symptoms can continue on, for hours and hours… once it hits my stomach, it can be wrecked for the entire night and the greater part of the next day… it's a VICIOUS cycle…

The Legend Part I Special Edition, 2 CD set, has been released … I'm VERY proud of this one… of the 3, it's the Special Edition I spent the most time on! Despite being remixes and "re imaginings" of material that is over 12 years old, it feels like the most complete, "original" work, I've released in years… In some ways, I'm sad to see the process end… I wish I could do a complete "re imagining of SMI & II, but that's simply not possible, because of the fact they were both recorded on 2 inch, analog tape… converting all those analog tracks to digital, would cost a fortune… maybe someday when I'm loaded! ;)

I've found some comfort & catharsis in this "lighter" SM related work… the Legend Special Edition CD's have definitely been a far more functional work experience for me, of late… I've really "enjoyed" working on these… finding enjoyment in "anything," seems to be a rare thing these days… of course, I still find my greatest joy in family; my children, my wife, my brother… they are a great source of enjoyment in my life! When I'm not seeking or creating isolation, I do enjoy my friends, though I find myself less and less connected to them…only connecting at times and in shorter increments… I've realized that so many friendships in my life, seem to thrive on, or center around their particular problems… for many of my friends, I've probably been more of a "therapist" than a friend, over the years… I see or speak with many friends, predominantly during times of great distress in their lives… it's rare that I hear from them when things are going well… I've never had a problem with this at all… I assume that if I haven't seen or heard from a friend, in quite some time, they're doing well… my council, my advice, my "wisdom" must have been helpful! ;) I do have a few very close friends… a few people who really "know me" and whom I share a truly communicative and "balanced" relationship with… I genuinely enjoy their company, conversation, humor, minds, hearts and spirits… It's nice to have friends… I have been Blessed!

Over the years, I've been Blessed by seemingly random "gifts" from SM fans and supporters…in many cases, these gifts or "offerings" have come during the most "timely" of circumstances… it's difficult to explain, but I'll simply say that there have been times when we haven't even had enough money to pay for groceries and a $50 donation, in cash, will "mysteriously" show up in the mail, that very day… times when our electricity was days, even hours away from being shut off, and a $200 money order arrives from a teenager's Mother in Indiana, who says she was "led" to send it… she was "supposed" to… it was also her way of saying thank you, for helping her 16 year old son rededicate his life to Christ and surrender a severe drug addiction… In one case in particular, I remember a divorced, former husband & wife, one living in Florida, one living in Texas, almost simultaneously, mailing me separate checks… their 14 year old daughter had recently attempted suicide and was institutionalized for a short time… the mental hospital she was in, was strict about the personal items she was allowed to have… she asked for just a few things, one of which, was a CD…SMII…it was "cleared" by administration and she listened to it, almost "obsessively," for the few weeks she was under observation… when she was released, she returned home to her mother and explained to her that this CD "convicted" her, "inspired" her and it gave her the strength she needed, to get through this difficult time of recovery… I was so moved by the letter I received from her Mother, I almost failed to see there was a $500 check in the envelope… three days later, I received a letter from her Father…another heart wrenching letter and another $500 check… at the time, I had only recently become a Father, myself… my daughter, Kashmir was just a baby… less than 3 months old… I was so profoundly "touched," by their story and by their gestures…so completely in "awe" of God's Grace, I fell to my knees and wept! I Prayed for quite some time, then held my baby girl for the next several hours… I've never questioned why these "random" offerings happen, since! Consequently, the money paid our rent that month! Through the course of my time and work with SM, these offerings have come in such "timely randomness" and in such varying circumstances, it would be nearly impossible to list them all… many times, there have been no letters or "reasons" accompanying a donation… the monetary amounts have varied from a single dollar to the above mentioned… sometimes from people close to

me and many times, from people I've never met… these occurrences are only "random" in that they don't happen often, they do happen at the right time!

Feeling a bit "lost in myself," lately…God is working on something in me… seem to be in a continual state of reflection and / or remorse…I'm constantly over analyzing everything… always been introspective, but this is becoming ridiculous… feels narcissistic… totally self indulgent… a perpetual state of pondering, it seems… a cruel pattern of time and circumstance, situation and reflection, problem and resolution… what is this sick and morbid desire to inflict such pain upon myself? Why so many questions… so much doubt? Where is my old friend, confidence? Where is my drive, my motivation, my desire to move forward… to even look forward? Where the hell is my vision?

How did I evolve, or more likely, regress from being such an open person, to such a closed, reclusive soul? I used to love people… now, I can't seem to be around them at all! I used to love a crowd… now, I break into a cold sweat if there's more than 3 or 4 people near me! I used to feel completely connected to humanity… now, I feel completely annoyed by most 2 legged mammals! Disdain, disgust and apathy seem to be more prevalent in me, than any sort of genuine compassion anymore… I've completely lost faith in man's ability to "see" himself for what he truly is…lost, ALONE and incapable of truly loving one another, without God at the center of all things… for years, I believed as I was taught, that all things were possible with God… I still see miracles, occasionally, and I am truly thankful… however… my question is this… how can God make it possible for us to love one another, if we cannot love ourselves? We are lonely, scared, bitter, angry, confused, self fulfilling, self loathing creatures… lustful, greedy, deceitful, lazy, gluttonous, prideful, inconsiderate, unintelligible, unimaginative morons…just pick a derogatory adjective, and insert here! Our vast, wasteland of insecurities imprison us, paralyze us, separate us and prevent us from ever obtaining true security…

Interesting how for years, I was accused by people close to me, of being too ego centric, too focused on my work, too insensitive to other people's needs… oblivious to the effects that my mission /obsession had on the people around

me… then I became a Father and the world changed… no way to be obsessed with anything other than being a great Father… no time to be self absorbed anymore and no right to be! I learned how to give of myself completely and unconditionally to something other than work… once you learn to be selfless and completely aware of the needs of your children, that awareness becomes habitual and inevitably becomes a reflex… that kind of sensitivity can creep into the rest of your life… in how you interact with everyone… it's great for being aware of your surroundings, it's helpful and healthy in relationships, but it sure isn't good if you need to get self indulgent work done…I've found that the more sensitive I become to people's needs, the more courteous I am, the more difficult it is to find that self absorbed, "egomaniacal prick" I need to be, to get shit done! ;) It's also a bit of a "catch 22" because as you become more sensitive to what's going on around you, you can also become far more disturbed, distracted and irritated by the things you never noticed before! ;)

I find it so ironic that 20 years ago, I was hell bent on "saving the world," believed it was somehow possible and just "knew" I could help in doing so… I was passionate, focused and "on fire" for the Word of God… ready to take on every burden of every living soul, and point them in the right direction! I openly embraced humanity and all of its suffering… if you had "a Cross to bare," I'd graciously bare it with you! In my life and in my work, I thrived on this for over 10 years, taking on the "problems of the world" like it was just part of my job to do so… I realize now, that although I'm sure my heart was in the right place and that my intentions were noble, the greater part of my motivation was likely ego driven and/or to give me a sense of purpose…

Our lives are what they are, in and of themselves, a series of choices… be it controversial or not, technically, they can even begin or end with a choice… One of the most important choices I ever made was to be a father… I "chose" to put my children first and "chose" to put SM on the back burner in many respects…my decision was not appreciated by the people involved financially with the project… my choice affected the lives of all involved, but it was the

only choice… in the years since I made this choice, I've been asked several times if it was a difficult decision to make… I have always maintained the same answer… absolutely not… it was the easiest decision I've ever made…

For 20 years, I've tried with all that I am capable of, to serve God… I've been a good soldier… I've fought the good fight… I've sometimes stumbled and I've sometimes fallen, but despite nearly mortal wounds, I've always had the courage to get up and continue on the battlefield… I'm sure at times, my pride, my ego and MY will have gotten in the way of HIS will… there is no doubt in my mind, that my MIND has occasionally led me astray from that which my heart knows is right… though I know all too well, the power of the enemy and have been relentlessly attacked, from all sides, the greatest attack has come from within… I have become my greatest enemy… I have become a prisoner to this war, a danger to myself, and a detriment to the Mission…

So painfully ironic that today, I am a far wiser man and much more capable of actually helping someone than I was 20 years ago…unfortunately, I don't have the same desire to help anymore… more to the point, I'm not sure if I really believe people can be helped? I spent at least 15 solid years feeling an enormous obligation to Ministry… 15 years listening to thousands of fan's stories and problems; some of them petty, many of them complicated, and most of them horrific! 15 years of Ministering to them, counseling them… in person, in letters, in e-mails by the thousands… I made myself completely available to all who called on me, for as long as I possibly could… for every great success story, there were 40 others who never showed any real signs of growth… the ratio became too irrational for me to justify the hours served… maybe too painfully frustrating and quite possibly, too depressing… the cold and harsh reality becomes clear… I can't save the world, people don't really want to be saved and who the hell am I to even try? How am I qualified? I'm NOT and I'm not sure anymore, if I'd want to be? It's my own damn fault for being so delusional about the nature of people, in the first place… where did this well intentioned, yet ego driven, "Messiah complex" come from? More importantly, where did it GO? At the moment, I could sure use it! ;)

Profoundly ironic that the very thing that once drove me to such ambitious work, such "lofty" aspirations, has become the very thing I am afraid of…

I've cut myself off from nearly everyone and everything… I have virtually no distractions, no outside pressure, no deadlines and no strings attached… I could work on music 12 hours a night… alone, focused and uninterrupted! The greatest irony of all is that for the first time in my entire, 20 year career, I have everything an artist could possibly dream of for a "pure" artistic working environment…everything…everything except the ability to work…

In doing some advanced research on proper nutrition and serotonin levels in people with my condition, I recently discovered that one of the medications I've been taking for the past 4 years, has been directly linked to an acute form of depression… what the hell? After I finish beating the shit out of my primary physician, I'll ask him why he failed to mention that their might be a few side effects? That although the maximum dose I've been prescribed will surely reduce the amount of acid my stomach produces, it just might make make me want to kill myself?! ;) This little "medical oversight" isn't going to help at all with my overall lack of trust or debilitating fear of doctors! ;) On a serious note, this is a Revelation…if it's true, it explains a great deal…

I've stopped taking the main proton inhibitor medication… if it's linked to depression, I don't want to have anything to do with it! I'd rather take my chances with cancer than be depressed! The fact is that if / when it becomes cancer, I'll need every ounce of energy I can muster, to fight it… expending all of my energy, fighting depression, is counter productive and it's a death sentence, as far as I'm concerned! In order to stop the medication, I've had to make even more extreme changes in my diet…I've cut out all spicy foods, all fatty foods, anything fried in oil, all white flour, all processed sugar… I'm eating mainly white meats, vegetables, whole wheat breads and cereals, fruit, nuts & berries… it's a work in progress… a daily experiment to find what I can and can not eat anymore… what triggers the reflux and what doesn't? The medication served like a "protective blanket" between my stomach and my throat… I could still eat many foods without a reaction but the medicine

was a LIAR! The medication never gave my body the chance to speak to me, tell me what it wants, what it needs, what it does NOT like, what it wants to reject and push back up! Every day is a discovery… almost everything I am eating, is cooperating… physically, I'm feeling better than I have in my life!

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2009 - YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT!!! Truer words are rarely spoken in regards to physical health… like most Americans, I grew up on shitty food… I never learned how to properly "feed" my body… I'm 41 years old, and I'm finally on the path…I'm constantly seeking nutritional information…what's good for this? What's good for that? I'm truly starting to believe that most, if not all physical and psychological ailments can be treated with the proper foods… found that apples are great for my stomach… good for the digestive system… discovered that broccoli is great for my brain… asparagus is great for detoxification… cranberries are God's cleansing nectar for the kidneys… Americans, in general, eat shit…it's all addictive… eat shit, crave more shit! Well, not me folks… not anymore! I may have to deal with stomach cancer or may die of throat cancer, but I'll be damned if I'm going to continue to pollute my body with poisonous food in the meantime! Quality of life means a great deal to someone, once they've been given a serious mortality scare…

Jeff has started working out with me… it's great… 2-3 times a week, we're lifting weights together, for a few hours… we both can't stand public gyms, so we've been working out at a private gym, with our step dad… Bob's just awesome… he's a great trainer and he's so generous with his time for us… It's important for me to exercise every day and I enjoy the weights even more than the cardio I do on the other days… it's a nice way for Jeff and I to see each other a few hours during the week… plus, we're both getting "buff!" ;)

I continue to make more and more "lifestyle changes" as needed, to manage my condition… I've noticed that the less "brain" work I'm engaged in, the better I feel, the better I sleep and the better my stomach functions… trying

to get involved with more "physical" projects all the time… it feels good to work with my hands… I should have been a carpenter… would have been in good company! ;) Realize I've spent most of my entire life engaged in some type of "cerebral" work… drawing / sketching, designing, painting, writing, composing… the last "real" job I had was over 20 years ago, working as a draftsman, for an architect… I sat in a cubical, 8 hours a day, meticulously drawing plans for over 3 years… What have I been doing, working at a desk, an easel, a piano, a computer, all my life? I've probably been going crazy? ;)

After over a year of rebuilding the entire foundation of our relationship, Jeff and I have decided to try and create something together, for the first time in over a decade… we've played around with the idea for months and we've got plenty of future projects in mind, as well, but we've chosen to record an entire album of acoustic material, to start…this is going to be an experiment for us… a chance to see if we can maintain the tremendous relationship we now have, while working together, artistically… there are so many painful memories associated with our past SM working relationship… I Pray that this opportunity to work together will not only help to heal past wounds, but that the experience may only further enhance our growth, together… we are both a bit "cautious" about the process, but I also believe we are optimistic…

Jeff and I intended to work out some potential acoustic arrangements of past SM material tonight and ended up writing a new song together, in less than an hour… it was awesome! It just happened…like it was the most "natural" thing we'd ever done… it's such a great song, we'll have to include it on this collection of acoustic material… I'm sure we'll end up writing another song together, to accompany it, before we're done with this little project… the idea was to record 16 SM songs acoustically, 2 brand new songs will make a nice addition to the 2 CD's… I can tell this is going to be a cathartic experience!

Jeff and I have begun recording… it's really going very well… recording all these previously "bombastic" songs again with such a minimal and intimate approach to the arrangements, is "breathing new life" into them… they are just as powerful, but in a completely different way… the more "ballad" type

material, translates easily and is as effective as we thought it would be… the more fascinating thing, to us, at the moment, is how interesting the heavier, more "aggressive" material is translating… songs most people would never possibly imagine as "acoustically translatable," are turning into some of the coolest arrangements on the whole thing… if it is as interesting for people to listen to, as it has been for us to work on, it will end up being a great album!

Just being able to work on music again, without making myself mentally ill or physically sick, has been simply wonderful! The fact that I am able to do it with my brother, is an even greater Blessing… I know I'm not quite ready to face "The Beast" again yet, but who knows? With time and with the proper "re training" of the "way" I work, maybe I'll be ready to face it again? This time, with "clarity" and my brother at my side… my brother has so much as told me, he will HELP me to complete it! To quote him: "We started all this together…maybe we're supposed to finish it together? Maybe all this time in between, all these years apart, our separate struggles, have brought us to this point, so we CAN finish it together?" I concur wholeheartedly and without the "maybe"…I KNOW IT! The only question that remains for us now, is exactly "when?" I suppose this will be revealed to us both, when we're ready to know? As in all God's "Revelations," He will choose the time and place…

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